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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Denounces 'Campaign' Against Iraq

JN2603162190 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, Mar 26, INA—The Arab League has affirmed that the sentence passed by Iraqi judiciary against spy Farzad Bazoft is an act of sovereignty and a legitimate defence of Iraqi security against espionage and subversion.

In a statement released here today following its emergency session the Arab League expressed denouncement to the unjust campaign being launched by the British Government against Iraq within the scope of an obvious intervention in internal affairs of all Arab countries.

The League demonstrated sorrow that some European countries had joined the drive that was not in favour of Euro-Arab relations, which the Arab countries were keen on developing within the frame of joint interests and bilateral respect to sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

The Arab League Council also declared its full solidarity with Iraq in defence of its national sovereignty and security which was considered indivisible of oneness of the Arab national security.

The Council affirmed that any encroachment on security of any Arab state was rejected and to be encountered according [to] dictates of preserving security of the Arab nation.

The statement mentioned that the sentence passed by Iraqi judiciary against the spy Bazoft, whose condemnation of espionage for the Zionist intelligence was proved after his confessions before the Iraqi judiciary, and after he had been given a trial according to the internationally recognised legal procedures, was an act of sovereignty and legitimate defence of Iraqi national security.

The Arab League Council reiterated the Arab states' adherence to human and peoples rights, stipulated in international charters and conventions. The Council called on Arab media to undertake their effective role and counter the British and Zionist media campaigns hostile to Iraq.

It emphasised the necessity of exposing the inhumane practices of the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people, without anyone uttering a word as though human rights were only meant to the European and Zionist man and did not include the Arabs.

Tunis Cites Arab League Statement

LD2603192690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League Council has confirmed that the judgment issued by the Iraqi judiciary on the spy Farzad Bazoft is an act of sovereignty, expressed its condemnation of the campaign waged by Britain against Iraq following this spy's execution, and regretted some EEC countries joining this campaign.

A statement issued following the meeting of the Council in Tunis today at the level of permanent representatives to review the British campaign against Iraq, following the execution of Bazoft whose conviction of spying for British and Israeli intelligence had been proved, said: Considering that the Council sees the judgment issued by the Iraqi judiciary against the mentioned spy as an act of sovereignty and a legitimate defense of the national security of the Iraqi Republic against acts of espionage and sabotage, it condemns the unjust campaign being waged by the British Government against the Iraqi Republic and considers this interference in the internal affairs of Arab countries. The Council urges the Arab media to confront the foreign information campaigns which are hostile to Arab rights and just causes, and renews the Arab states' attachment to human rights and the rights of peoples as outlined in international characters and agreements.

AMU Foreign Minister Council Begins in Tunis

LD3003094890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2325 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] Foreign Ministers Council ordinary meeting opened in Tunis on 28 March under the chairmanship of Mr. Ismail Kheli' minister of foreign affairs, and in the presence of the rest of the Maghrebian ministers. They are Ahmed Seyed Ghazali from Algeria, Abdellatif Filali from Morocco, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi from the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and Major Cheikh Sid 'Ahmed Ould Baba from Mauritania.

Mr. Ismail Khelil made a speech in which he indicated that the UMA first chairmanship session has resulted in resolutions and recommendations that represent a basic foundation for Maghrebian action, and which were implemented on time. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Meets AMU Ministers

LD3003193690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred today at noon at the presidential palace in Carthage with Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers Ismail Khlil, Ahmed Seyed Ghazali of Algeria, Abdellatif Filali of Morocco, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the general people's commitee for foreign liaison of Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and Colonel Cheikh Sid 'Ahmed Ould Baba of Mauritania. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Issue Statement

LD3003192490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] On concluding the meetings of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] foreign ministers, a press statement was issued. The statement included the following points in particular:

The AMU council reviewed the report of the follow-up committee about the course of the AMU and the progress achieved in building its institutions.

The council expressed special appreciation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, AMU chairman, for his continuous concern about and personal attention to pushing forward the Maghreb march of construction in response to the aspirations of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb.

The council saluted the movement toward building the Arab Maghreb recorded during the first three months of 1990, which is represented by the progress achieved in the work towards integration in several field stages and in assessing the projects and determining the method of implementing them within the context of the executive plan ratified by the AMU leadership council in its Tunis session.

The Council of Ministers was informed about the steps taken regarding the leadership council resolution on organizing the general secretariat in the light of working papers discussed by the follow-up committee, which decided to form a working group to prepare a structure expressing the importance attached by the AMU countries to this [words indistinct].

The council recorded with satisfaction that the AMU countries have started to complete the executive measures for ratifying the amendment to the AMU treaty concerning the consultative council and the general secretariat.

The council was informed about the contacts carried out by the leadership with the Arab, African, and international regional groups to consolidate [word indistinct] and its aims and to express readiness to establish dialogues with them to serve mutual interests.

The Tunisian delegation submitted a working paper about the issue of indebtedness. The delegation recalled the initiative of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, AMU chairman, which was aimed at exchanging views and coordinating positions on this issue. This initiative was expressed by receiving the experts of the AMU countries before the visit of the envoy of the UN secretary general to Tunisia this March, and by giving permission to coordinate the contacts between the AMU finance ministers to submit a working paper which brings out the views of the AMU countries on suitable solutions.

To implement the leadership council's resolution made in its first ordinary session, held in Tunisia, on inviting the ministers and secretaries of peoples's committees in charge of foreign affairs and defense in the AMU countries to meet to draw up a draft for defense coordination and cooperation, foreign affairs and defense ministers and secretaries of people's committees held a joint meeting in Tunis today and decided to form a committee to submit practical suggestions for cooperation in the fields of training; exchange of lecturers; standardizing the programs of military training institutions; exchanging delegations, visits, and documents; coordinating their action within the international council for military sports; and consolidating cooperation in the social field.

AMU Ministers Conclude Meeting

LD3003194390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers' council concludes, at noon today, its meeting of 29 and 30 March in Tunis with the participation of the five member countries' delegation led by Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil. At the end of the meeting, a press statement was issued in which the ministers praised Tunisia's active role for the achievement of the objectives of the union.

Regarding the organization of the general secretariat, the council endorsed the decision of the follow-up committee to set up a working team to prepare a concept embodying the importance attached by the states of the union to this structure.

The council recorded with extreme satisfaction the profound response to the union's initiative in contacting Arab and African groups, and recommended following up these contacts with the aim of visualizing the optimum forms of consultation and coordination between the bodies of the union and these groups.

The council discussed the stepping up of the fierce racist campaign against the Maghrebian community in Europe, expressed extreme concern to it, and urged the European countries in which those assaults are being committed to take the necessary measures and arrangements to defend the rights, safety, and dignity of the Maghrebian expatriate community, respect its identity, and severely punish the perpetrators of those crimes.

On the other hand, the Tunisian delegation presented a working paper on indebtedness and recalled the initiative of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in receiving the ambassadors of the states of the union before the visit of the envoy of the UN secretary general to Tunis this month and in arranging contacts among the ministers of finance with a view to presenting a working paper which highlights the views of member states and their proposed suitable solutions.

The council also discussed coordination and cooperation in the field of defense.

Arab League Statement on Technology Transfer

JN3103113090 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, Mar 31, INA—The Arab League confirmed Iraq's right to transfer advanced technology for its cultural development process, just like any other state.

In a statement released here, the League's Secretariat General renewed its full support for Iraq in defending its security and sovereignty against all acts of espionage and aggression.

The statement said that the Secretariat General observed with deep concern the new negative developments in the Iraqi-British relations following baseless allegations that Iraq tried to get nuclear arms devices.

The Arab League urged parties concerned about Iraq's possession of nuclear arms to assume a decisive attitude towards the Zionist entity, which had become a nuclear arsenal a long time ago as all facts proved.

The League pointed out that Iraq had refuted claims of having nuclear arms at a time the International [Atomic] Energy Agency had not observed any violation by Iraq of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Arms Treaty.

The statement asked the British authorities to be self-controlled and view Arab-British relations with an eye of responsibility.

Islamic World League on U.S. Congress Resolution

LD0304181290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Holy Mecca, 3 Apr 1990, SPA—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League has, on behalf of all the Islamic peoples and members of the League, expressed its hope that U.S. Congress will reconsider its resolution, which it recently adopted and in which it considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

In a statement issued today, Tuesday, by its secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Abdullah 'Umar Nasif, the League said: "The league expresses its pain about this resolution, which is considered a strange precedent because it contradicts what is right and just. It also contradicts reason and logic."

It added: "The league considers this resolution to be a strong relapse and considers it painful at a time when the world public opinion was expecting the results of the latest stances and moves of the U.S. Administration, moves which endeavor to prompt the leaders of Israel to move toward the peace negotiations put forward on the international arena."

The Islamic World League believes this resolution leads to the violation of the fundamental bases of international laws, conventons, agreements, and rights.

The league describes the resolution as a blatant challenge to Muslims' feelings, in addition to the fact that it supports the Zionist enemy and makes it reckless in its transgression and wrongdoing and its repeated irresponsible aggressions against the Palestinian people.

The Islamic World League calls on the Arab and Muslim leaders to continue to further unite their ranks, views, and consultations to deal with the conseqences of this resolution and work for the elimination of wrongdoing so that people recover their rights and so that the land returns to its owners.

London Paper Views Emigration of Soviet Jews

PM2102155490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Feb 90 p 13

[Ahmad Abu-al-Fath article: "The Major Threat: 2 Million Soviet Jews?!"]

[Excerpts] Who will prevent Soviet Jews from occupying Arab land?

There is no reason for psychological deception and reliance on U.S. statements or what the Soviet Union says about the emigrants' occupation of Arab land.

Experience has proved that whatever Israel's leader wants—whether it is Begin or Shamir—it is done, even if U.S. dissatisfaction is expressed.

Can anyone trace anything that Israel wanted that was obstructed by the United States?!

U.S. anger was occasionally expressed at Israel's attitudes, but that anger quickly evaporated and was replaced by apathy.

Israel is the only state in the world that receives the backing of all U.S. forces, including the president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, senators, and the media. It receives 20 times as much aid as Egypt, in proportion to the two states' populations. [passage omitted]

Does Shamir want peace, which, if achieved, would mean that Israel would have to relinquish the occupied land or large parts of it? The answer is well known: Shamir seeks to annex the occupied territories. He declares this wish at every opportunity. Certainly a U.S. abandonment of efforts to achieve peace would give Shamir the opportunity to get rid of that peace, the price for which is the liberation of the occupied land. [passage omitted]

If we review the development of U.S.-Israeli relations, we can see that the United States is the major backer of all the racist state's achievements. There is no argument about that.

Would the East European states have rushed to restore relations with Israel if they had known that the United States would be dissatisfied with that?!

The East European states are doing their utmost to respond to U.S. wishes, which is why they are competing to restore relations with Israel.

Mikhail Gorbachev himself responds to all U.S. wishes concerning Israel, and undoubtedly he is behind restoring relations between the Eastern states and the racist state.

Did Gorbachev not reject the Arab League's request concerning the Jews' emigration to Israel, saying that the door to emigration was open to every Soviet citizen and that he could not close it to the Jews? He contented himself with the UN demand concerning the prevention of their settlement in the occupied territories, even though he knows that Israel will never respect any resolution by the international organization and that the United Nations will be unable to prevent the Jews' settlement in Arab land. [passage omitted]

While giving us statements, the United States gives Israel whatever it wants, materially, militarily, politically, and colonially.

The Arab states must know that the number of Soviet Jews totals 2 million, and that Israel expects to receive 750,000 of them over a few years. Thus the Arabs will remain a minority in Greater Israel forever. So if the Arab states want to stop the danger of emigration to Israel, they must direct their pressure toward the United States, because—despite the statements—it is Israel's first and last supporter.

Arab League Talks on USSR Emigrants Rescheduled

PM2703101190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 90 p 1

[Sami 'Imarah report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Arab League Delegation To Visit Moscow Next Month"]

[Excerpts] Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Arab diplomatic sources in Moscow have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Arab League delegation's visit to Moscow, which had been scheduled for 5 March, will take place in the first half of April. [passage omitted]

It has been decided that the delegation will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the issue of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, its dangers to Arab security, and its potential impact on the efforts aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East and finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

Soviet sources in Moscow have said that the Soviets welcomes the Arab League delegation's visit on any date suitable for it and expresses its willingness to discuss all the issues which the delegation wishes to raise at the talks.

On the Jewish emigration problem and the emigrants' settlement in the occupied territories, the sources said that "the Soviet position in that regard has not changed. We have made clear our condemnation of settling emigrants in the occupied Arab territories, and we have raised the issue at the Security Council. As for the emigration itself, it is being conducted according to the country's laws, which conform to international conventions and charters. Thus the Soviets are also ready to discuss these issues with the Arab League delegation if it wants to raise them." [passage omitted]

Afro-Arab Summit Said Likely This Year

PM2303111190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Afro-Arab Summit Before End of Year"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that contacts are currently under way between Arab and African capitals on preparations for an Afro-Arab summit conference before the end of this year. According to informed diplomatic sources in Cairo, Egypt is playing a major part in these contacts in its capacity as OAU chairman and also by virtue of its Arab identity.

The second round of Afro-Arab parliamentary dialogue will be held in the second half of this year. [passage omitted]

Arab Tripartite Committee Announces Meeting

LD0304190790 Rabat MAP in English 1338 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat, Apr 3 (MAP)—Foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon will hold a meeting here next Thursday, it was officially announced here today.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia will examine the internal and external situation in Lebanon in light of latest developments in the region.

The foreign ministers' latest meeting was held in Algiers last January.

The Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon was set up by the Arab extraordinary summit of Casablanca last may to find a way out to the Lebanese crisis.

Ethiopia-Israel Cooperation Explained

PM0103152190 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 23 Feb 90 p 3

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Arab League Assistant Secretary General Tells AL-MADINAH: Ethiopian-Israeli Cooperation Serious Matter"]

[Text] Tunis—In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Umran has emphasized that Ethiopian-Israeli cooperation is presently the most important and serious issue. This is because the Israeli orientation is clear and does not need any explanation. There is an Israeli onslaught aimed at stationing in the southern region of the Red Sea, especially in the Dahlak Archipelago—which means controlling Bab el Mandeb and threatening neighboring Arab states.

'Umran also emphasized that that Israeli action is offensive and hostile and must be given the attention it deserves. Positions capable of confronting that new threat must be taken. 'Umran added: The objective of Israel's attempt to control the sources of Nile waters and the very serious security threats which that would pose to two Arab countries are known. All this proves that pan-Arab security is one and cannot be divided and that that security can only be protected with an Arab umbrella.

AL-MADINAH has obtained very serious information regarding military cooperation between Israel and Ethiopia. The information was revealed in the memorandum Sudan submitted recently to the Arab League general secretariat. The information indicates that the Israeli chief of staff made an undeclared visit to Ethiopia last January. And his visit to to the Asmera area was confirmed. Ethiopia agreed to allocate a military base for Israel in Dek'emhare, south of Asmera.

The information also indicates that the two countries recently signed a secret military protocol which stipulates the following: First, Ethiopia will acquire the following Israeli aid: arms and ammunition; maintenance of old military equipment; bombs and poison gases; and military advisers in all specializations.

Second, Israel will obtain the following: a military base in Jabal Surk [as published]; a military base in Jabal Hanish [as published]; a military base for the Israeli Navy in Ras Shakhs, south of the Red Sea; facilities in the Nurah Adasi, which is known to contain uranium; facilities in the Samoti area in the Red Sea; and a military training base in Dek'emhare, south of Asmera.

The information also indicates that an Israeli military delegation comprising 18 generals visited Ethiopia in the first half of January 1990. During the visit the delegation toured Asmera, Mits'iwa, and Dahlak Archipelago. The delegation also toured the Red Sea areas. The serious information reveals that Israel supplied Ethiopia with seven aircraft loaded with some 500 to 10,000 cluster bombs.

Ethiopia has also acquired a battalion of Soviet-made tanks, 50,000 Uzi machine guns, and a helicopter fitted with spying and photographic equipment.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Saddam's Speech Expresses Actual Power

JN0304154290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 3 Apr (INA)—State of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that President Saddam Husayn's speech manifests the will of the Arab nation, which will not be affected by any threats or provocations and declares its determination to confront the challenges and record its history in letters of light and fire.

In an interview with INA in Tunis, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat said that the speech given by President Saddam Husayn while decorating fighters with the Sayf al-Qadisiyah award and medals for valor, represents pure Arab pride based on positions of actual power, not just verbal—which was proved by the great battles fought by the people, Army, and leadership of Iraq at the eastern gate of the Arab nation.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat added: We say to the brother and knight leader Saddam Husayn to go forward and may God bless you. The hearts of the Arab nation are with and around you until Arab victory flutters in banners of Arab triumph—with His help and blessing—over the walls of liberated Jerusalem to record our second victory on the land of Palestine—as we have done at the eastern gate of the Arab nation.

He stated that President Saddam Husayn's reply, which was clear, strong, and firm, is a clear-cut and unambiguous expression of the will of the whole Arab nation as it confronts dangerous challenges at every level.

He said that the attack by forces hostile to the Arab nation was concentrated primarily against Iraq, which continues its march of progress after the historic victory in its just battle while announcing the emergence of new factors of strength for the Arab people in their confrontation with contemporary challenges.

The Palestinian president warned of Zionist preparations quietly taking place to do something, whether a large-scale military operation or a quick strike against the eastern front of the Arab nation—Iraq to be specific.

He renewed his call for an urgent Arab summit to confront the challenges faced by the Arab nation and asked the Arab countries to shoulder their responsibilities in bolstering joint Arab action in light of the current situation.

He said that the latest attack has taken many forms, and was directed against not only Iraq, but the whole Arab nation. It took place in preparation for aggression against the Arab homeland and proud Iraq—which is considered to constitute the strong and solid structure within the body of the Arab nation.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat added that the Zionist entity represents the head of the body of hostile world forces inside the Arab nation and its role is to protect the interests of these forces in the region.

He explained that protecting the interests of these world forces is the justification for the presence of the Zionist entity, which receives unlimited support on all levels, especially from the United States, to enable it to protect its interests in the Arab homeland.

He added that, since its establishment to the present day, the Zionist entity has been used in the role of guard dog against more than one side and many times. It is armed with the schemes, the aid, and the support of hostile world forces.

Commentary Urges Support for Saddam Husayn

LD0404051890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Political commentary: "Let the Arabs Consolidate the Iraqi Position"]

[Text] As expected, the important speech by President Saddam Husayn, because of its daring stances, led to consecutive reactions in the political and media quarters inside and outside the region.

Right now we are not going to talk about these reactions. But we would like to say is that the speech of President Saddam's position has restored hope to every Arab citizen everywhere, because this Arab nation could rise up to the level of the grave regional and international events which threaten its fate, life, and existence. That is if it adopts a firm stance toward its enemies.

In our region, the U.S. and Israeli continuation of aggression, terrorism, and expansion has accumulated. The United States encourages Jewish emigration into Palestine and finances it, as well as its housing in the Zionist settlements. This will eventually threaten the rest of Arab land. The Zionist occupation government is not hiding anymore its wish to expand in order to house the new emigrants. As for the talk about the peace efforts and the U.S. pursuit of peace in the Middle East, this is nothing but an attempt to blur the issue and cover up Israeli crimes and expansion. This is on the Palestinian level.

On the Arab level, the leaders of the Zionist occupation have repeatedly bragged about their support, training, and arming of the mercenary Kurdish groups which supported the Iranian aggression against Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. The leaders of the Zionist occupation have bragged about their aggression against the Iraqi Tammuz reactor at the beginning of the summer of 1981. The same people two days ago threatened Iraq when the Israeli chief of staff, Dan Shomron, said that Israel might launch a new attack against Iraq to stop it from acquiring the nuclear bomb. Iraq, as President Saddam Husayn stressed, has denied having any nuclear weapons.

The United States has not commented on the statements and threats by the Zionist enemy's chief of staff about the possibilities of an attack against Iraq. When Israel says that it is about to launch a new attack on Iraq, this means that Israel is ready, the threat does exist, and that its implementation is awaiting the suitable moment.

The United States, together with Britain, moved to defend Israel by ignoring its threats to Iraq and by propagating that Iraq has nuclear weapons.

In the midst of these Zionist and U.S. stances, the Iraqi president announced that Iraq will set half of Israel on fire if Tel Aviv tries to do anything against Iraq. We say the Iraqi president has dotted the i's and crossed the t's. If Israel commits an aggression and launches an attack against Iraqi territories, then Iraq will defend itself using all its weapons, including the binary chemical weapons. The Iraqi president's speech, which included this stance, has filled the pages of the newspapers and magazines and was relayed by Arab and international radios and televisions. As much as this speech has echoes, it has filled the Arab spirit with hope and confidence that the Arab nation will adopt a new stance and will adopt effective working methods to confront the Zionist and U.S. arrogance, which enjoys Arab weakness and inability.

What is required now is for Arab countries to show solidarity with the Iraqi position, which has sounded the warning bells against any new Zionist aggression. If the Iraqi position is firm and clear, as we said, in confronting the U.S. supported aggressive Israeli policy, then this position also serves the positions of the Arab nation and serves the options of the Arab nation in its conflict with its enemy, an enemy who understands nothing but the language of power—and only power—and who proves everyday that he is turning his back to peace and that he is unable to adopt a brave resolution about peace in this region of the world.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Jordanian, U.S. Relations

JN0204111990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Apr 90 p 14

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department, by 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman; date, place not given]

[Text] ['Awdah] There is a new noteworthy atmosphere prevailing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. What's new in this relationship?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Relations between us and the brothers in Jordan are constantly developing, especially since the historic disengagement decision.

There are sincere efforts at this stage to eliminate some negative measures which were taken following the decision to disengage relations. This will further enhance the relationship and put it on balanced foundations in a manner that will secure the unity of action and the joint

struggle to realize our people's national rights and provide the largest possible support for the heroic intifadah.

The relationship now exists on various levels. We seek to further enhance it. We have sensed that our brothers in Jordan have a similar desire.

The first level consists of increasing political consultations and cooperation in all fields, particularly that we proceed from the Casablanca Summit resolutions which had affirmed the need for coordination among the confrontation states; namely, with respect to the preparation for the international conference.

It is very important that we concentrate our efforts to hold a meeting among the confrontation states, particularly at this sensitive political stage. This meeting could be the prelude to convening an extraordinary summit conference that will discuss the means for developing the support for the intifadah in the political and information fields, and how to confront the Jewish immigration that not only threatens Jordan and Palestine but also all the other neighbor countries.

I believe that in view of the nature of the issues that the summit will discuss, it is important that such a summit convenes in Amman in view of what the location and meaning of such a step will have on the confrontation of the Jewish emigration plan, not to mention the support that this will give to the intifadah. Our relations are not only confined to the political aspect. The new stage in the Jordanian-Palestinian relations now dictates the stepping up of cooperation and coordination in many other fields, such as economy, culture, information, education, and others.

We discussed these matters during our present visit. We can say that practical steps have been taken to increase this coordination. For example, the Jerusalem Open University will be allowed to broadcast its programs and carry out its activities to confront the stultification policy and the closure of universities Israel has been carrying out for the third consecutive year. The brother officials have said they welcome such a project and will do their best to support it.

The disengagement decision came in response to a historical fact, but the new relations between us come in response to positive facts and are in line with our future aspirations to establish unique relations between the two fraternal people and between the two states of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

It suffices to mention that the week of solidarity with the intifadah and the activities on Land Day which took place on Jordanian territory clearly confirm the strength of these relations, that all the negative aspects that used to tarnish these relations in the past have been eliminated, and that there are great opportunities to develop these relations on the basis of common interests and objectives and with a new democratic content.

This could constitute a realistic model for sound relations between two fraternal people and two neighbor countries which have the same civilization and pan-Arab culture.

We very much hope that the democratic process in Jordan will be enhanced as this will be a real support for the struggle of our people in the occupied territories and for the entire Arab nation's struggle for liberation and progress.

Our national and pan-Arab duty dictates on us to embrace such a democratic process and to do all that we can to support and enhance it as this is one of the most important factors that will make Jordan become a strong bastion in the face of all the schemes to undermine its national identity.

In this respect, the cohesion between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and the enhancement of national unity are the safety valve for the democratic process and the real support for the struggle that the intifadah is waging, given that Jordan has been and will continue to be the major supportive front of the intifadah.

From the premise of all these facts, we jointly seek with our brothers in Jordan to consolidate our relations in all fields. It is wrong to set in advance a ceiling for these relations. The sound course is to nurture and open broad vistas for these relations in all fields.

['Awdah] Is there any coordination between the two countries in the political field?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Undoubtedly there is a need for more developed political coordination, especially since we are confronting three basic issues: Jewish emigration and the importance of the Security Council's resolution not to concentrate them in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. There is also the U.S. campaign carried out by some U.S. sides, especially the Congress, concerning Jerusalem or the efforts of these sides to support Israel's policy which is based on aggression, expansion, and blocking the doors of a just peace.

There is also the third issue dealing with the developments of the Israeli crisis, which is the crisis that erupted due to the steadfastness of the intifadah and the principled and realistic policy the PLO has been following by depending on the Palestinian peace initiative. This joint coordination between our two countries aims at inciting the Arab stand, preparing for a meeting of the confrontation states, and convening the Arab summit.

['Awdah] What is the PLO's position on a government headed by Peres?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This depends on Peres' stand. Will he continue along the same former policy he followed which, in essence, is no different than the Likud policy?

The PLO has always shown its willingness to reach out to all forces willing to establish a just peace and hold a balanced dialogue based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The cause of the government crisis in Israel is the continuing practice of successive governments—whether led by the Labor Party or in its participation with the Likud—in ignoring the rights and representation of our people.

We proposed the peace of the brave; and the Palestinian peace initiative was an expression of a historic, courageous act on the part of the PLO. However, the ruling Israeli leaderships have continued to follow the course of oppression and terrorism to change the course of history and stop the influence of the intifadah.

Any government that takes over in Israel cannot ignore the new facts which the intifadah, the realistic Palestinian policy, and the comprehensive world support for this policy have imposed. Otherwise, that government will find itself facing successive crises.

Ending the crisis lies in putting an end to the policies that brought it about: the policies of aggression, expansion, and denial of the Palestinian people's rights.

['Awdah] Has the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue reached a dead end, and what is your evaluation of it?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The dialogue continues, but removing it from a vicious cycle depends on progress in the U.S. stand concerning the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

We recently met with a number of U.S. envoys who had numerous comments and explanations; however, all of them are far removed from the essence, which is self-determination for the Palestinian people.

They know that we have red lines which cannot be crossed. At the same time, we have provided everything we could to make progress in the peace process, while the United States has done nothing but hide behind Israeli belligerence to demand more concessions from us, without taking any step on its part to put pressure on and influence the Israeli position.

Moreover, U.S. policy, which resorted to covering up the Israeli crimes and exercising the veto many times last year, is clear proof. True, some U.S. statements carry a positive stand, especially regarding putting an end to the occupation and rejecting Greater Israel, but positive statements need positive actions to confirm their positiveness, which is what U.S. policy is lacking so far.

This requires a united and pressing Arab stand. During the next Arab summit, we will present the details of our dialogue with the United States and the results attained during this dialogue.

['Awdah] When will the PLO Central Council convene, and what are the points on the agenda?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The PLO Central Council will convene in the next few weeks, and all the political subjects we have mentioned will be proposed on the agenda.

We will also present the Council with a public report on the results and level of the actual support given or not given to the intifadah by every Arab country proceeding from the Casablanca summit.

There are some Arab countries that have contributed, but they are a minority. The majority did not adhere to the unanimous resolutions of the Casablanca summit. This is a vital issue at this point in time and by that we do not mean only the material issues, but also the political, economic, educational, and other issues.

Of course, the Central Council will deal with issues of promoting and developing the intifadah, foremost of which is to strengthen the role of the Unified National Leadership, ban individualistic stands outside of it, stress the importance of making all Palestinian national parties within its framework participate, and develop the democratic character and the style of massive struggle which distinguishes the intifadah, and which was the main reason behind its success and continuity.

'Arafat Addresses Rally, Calls for Summit

JN3103204090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that our giant popular Palestinian intifadah will continue wave after wave until the beloved Palestinian flag flies over holy Jerusalem, the permanent capital of our Palestinian state. In a speech to a mass rally in Tunis yesterday on the 14th anniversary of the immortal Land Day, brother President leader Abu-'Ammar said that the Zionist entity does not want peace, because it rejects all international and regional peace initiatives, including the U.S. Administration's initiative.

Abu-'Ammar added that the Zionist crimes against the Palestinian people and their women and children are continuing and that more than 1,100 citizens have been martyred, 58,000 wounded, 6,500 handicapped, and 70,000 detained since the eruption of the blessed intifadah. He said that the great challenges facing the Arab nation at this particular time require an extraordinary Arab summit conference to discuss ways to overcome these challenges.

Brother President Leader Abu-'Ammar explained the dimensions of the conspiracy being hatched against Palestine and the Arab nation at this stage. He said: The continued emigration of Soviet Jews is in harmony with the Zionist movement's dream of achieving the so-called Greater Israel and escalating threats against the Arab nation and its security and sovereignty. He also strongly denounced the idea of the alternative homeland, and said: The Palestinians will never accept a homeland other than Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

PLO's Milhim on Land Day, Ties With Jordan

JN3103101090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Mar 90 pp 27, 24

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and head of Occupied Homeland Affairs, has said that Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion, which is being consolidated day by day through the continuous meetings of Jordanian and Palestinian leaders, stems from a common objective and destiny as well as from the feeling of the common danger. He added that this cohesion is being consolidated to make up the nucleus of Arab cohesion between the front line states and the other Arab states, particularly at this stage, which has multifarious security threats stemming from the expansionist Israeli designs and U.S. support for these schemes. In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR on the occasion of the Land Day anniversary, Milhim said that because of the stalemate in political action in the Middle East and the increasing emigration of Jews from the USSR, East Europe, and Ethiopia to occupied Palestine—with the entailed Israeli expansionist and aggressive intentions and dangers—the Arab nation must reconsider its calculations and realize that the imminent Zionist danger will not affect Jordanians and Palestinians alone, but the entire Arab nation and the Islamic nation as well.

Milhim added that the Arab nation must face the facts—particularly the reality of the American position and the contradictions in the [U.S.] stances on Jerusalem in particular. Despite some semi-positive statements made by U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker with regard to the U.S. rejection of Israeli settlements in the territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, there are statements attributed to President Bush and to his secretary of defense on American-Israeli military coordination on "Star Wars", and last but not least, the U.S. Congress resolution considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Milhim said: Hence, we must realize that the Americans and Israelis, who affirmed in the Knesset that Jerusalem is "a united and eternal capital of Israel", are not only obstructing a peaceful political solution, but are saying in one voice: "No solution." Thus, it has become clear that what is being said on toppling the Likud government, the ascension of the Labor Party, and holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza are mere attempts to gain time to destroy the peaceful Palestinian Arab initiative, affect the unity of the Palestinian Arab stand, and maybe to ignite a new war in the region.

Milhim explained that this American-Israeli onslaught aimed at torpedoing the peace efforts is the result of America's and Israel's perception that the Arab countries have begun a positive dialogue, the ice among a number of Arab states is starting to melt, and the Arab citizen, who is beginning to sense danger, has found out that he must be ready to confront and resist this danger. This is in addition to the continuous escalation of the intifadah by our heroic people in Palestine and the occupied Arab territory.

Muhammad Milhim said that Land Day is a distinguished day in the Palestinian people's history of struggle. Since it was established, Israel has been trying to pull the land out from under the Palestinians' and Arabs' feet to confirm its theory: taking Palestine, which is a land without a people, for a people without land. However, this great Palestinian people, who will continue to adhere to their land regardless of sacrifices and who will not accept an alternate to Palestine, have comprehended the depth of the Zionist plot and responded with further steadfastness, challenge, and adherence to the land. This people have declared 30 March of each year, the Land Day, a day for confrontation and struggle. We must not forget that 30 March is not only Land Day, but also the day of land and Jerusalem. And the intifadah has come to give this day a deeper, more militant dimension, Milhim said.

PLO Meeting Expected in 'Next Few Days'

JN3103183090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Palestinian leadership has called for an expanded meeting with prominent Palestinian figures from the occupied territories. The meeting will be held within the next few days in an Arab capital to assess the current situation in the occupied territories and the future of the PLO's peaceful political action and its impact on action inside the occupied territories.

Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis told AL-ITTIHAD that the Palestinian leadership has decided to make an urgent call for holding this meeting after a series of international contacts and after Palestinian figures have made similar U.S. and European contacts with the aim of drafting a common position on future action.

The sources added that the emigration of East European and Soviet Jews will be one of the most important subjects to be discussed. It will also discuss the role of a large number of emigrant officers with the Israeli occupation troops in suppressing the intifadah, especially Romanian Jews who have committed new crimes against the Palestinian people in the Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, and Nabulus areas.

Attendees Noted at Land Day Anniversary Rally

JN0104112990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus—The leadership of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] held a massive speech rally this evening to mark the anniversary of Land Day.

The rally was attended by comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist

Ba'th Party and regional secretary of the party's Palestinian group; comrade Rashid Akhtarini, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; some members of the Regional Command of the party's Palestinian group; Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Central Committee of the Fatah [Uprising] Movement; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar and Talal Naji, [former] members of the PLO Executive Committee; Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party; secretary of the al-Yarmuk branch of the party's Palestinian group; and some members of the branch command. The rally was also attended by representatives of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, Arab and friendly liberation movements, and Palestinian popular organizations. A large crowd of citizens also attended the rally.

Comrade Rashid Akhtarini addressed the rally on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Comrade Akhtarini began by conveying the greetings of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad to all those who are struggling to liberate land and man. He added: The Zionist crime against the Palestinian people was not the first and will not be the last. Also, it was not for the first time that our people in Galilee and other areas showed valor in defense of their lands and rights, and neither will it be the last in the history of the struggle of our Palestinian Arab people. The Land Day anniversary has become a symbol of this people's struggle and of their adherence to their land and identity despite the harsh means of repression, suppression, and displacement pursued by the neo-Nazis in occupied Palestine.

Comrade Akhtarini affirmed that the Palestine question with all of its dimensions has always been the focus of our attention in Syria under our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and its Secretary General Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He added: This has always been prompted by a deep faith that the Palestine question is the issue of the Arab nation and of all free forces and figures all over the world.

Comrade Akhtarini noted that there is no evidence that the changes being witnessed by our region, and their implication on the current world changes, bode well for the imminent establishment of a comprehensive and just peace. He added: These changes, as comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad affirmed, will endanger the nation's future unless we make moves toward unity. He asserted that Syria has been endeavoring to attain a militant Arab solidarity.

Concluding his speech, comrade Akhtarini addressed greetings of respect and honor to the martyrs who fell on Land Day, during the intifadah, and also to the Arab nation's martyrs. He addressed similar greetings to our people in the occupied territories.

Sister Siham Rahhal, member of the General Secretariat of the General Federation of Palestinian Women spoke on behalf of the Palestinian popular organizations, and 'Isam al-Mahayiri, leader of the Lebanese Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Emergency Command, spoke on behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril delivered a speech on behalf of the PNSF.

The speakers expressed the high esteem in which they hold the martyrs who fell on Land Day, this honorable day, at the hands of the Zionists in defense of their forefather's lands and their usurped rights. The speakers stressed the need for Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist cohesion to thwart the schemes and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation in general and the Palestine question in particular. They also asserted that the combat rifle will continue to be brandished in the face of the Israeli aggressors until victory, liberation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil.

Concluding their speeches, the speakers saluted our steadfast people in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. They also addressed greetings to the righteous martyrs as well as the prisoners and detainees held in the Israeli enemy's prisons.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Receives Party Leaders

LD0404102390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, received today at their request the officials of the following political organizations:

Mr. Allalou Mehdi Abbas, the Popular Society for Unity and Action;
Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, the Algerian Renewal Party;
Mr. Zenoun Noureddine, the Socialist Vanguard Party;
Mr. Cherifi Mohamed, the National Front for Innovation;
Mr. Khalil Ahmed, the Social Liberal Party;
Mr. Abderrahmane Adjerid, the Social Democratic Party;
Mr. Bouisi Mohamed, the Algerian National Party.

The officials of these political organizations informed the president about their joint meeting, which was held on 31 March, in the wake of which they issued a joint statement expressing their wish to postpone the date of the municipal and provincial council elections. At the same time they expressed their readiness to support and help the ordered dialogue among the various political organizations.

During the meeting, the president reminded them of his firm intention to completely implement the reforms within the framework of respecting the Constitution, especially materializing the democratic development through consulting the people by respecting the dates of the ordinary elections together with a preference for resorting to referendums about issues of national interest.

On the depature of these party delegations from the president's office, their representatives gave the following explanations to correspondent Mohamed Khazimi:

[Begin recording] [Khazimi] Mr. Allalou, could you please inform us about your meeting with the president?

[Allalou Abbas, leader of Popular Society for Unity an Action] The meeting with the president was about the basic point, which was the postponement of the municipal and provincial elections.

[Correspondent] What is your position now after the meeting with the president?

[Allalou] We have not yet adopted a position. We have not adopted a position prior to the meeting or after it. Naturally we will hold a meeting, first of all at the level of the Popular Society [for Unity and Action], then at the level of the other parties which participated with us. Everyone has the freedom to adopt the position he wants.

[Cherifi Mohamed, member of National Front for Innovation] In addition to this, our position cannot be determined now, but after a certain period, after we get the answers from President Chadli Bendjedid we will decide. This is the agreement which was reached today.

[Khazimi] Today you attended as only seven parties?

[Allalou] No. There were difficulties in communications. You know we received the news [the call to meet the president] yesterday at 2200, and during Ramadan, communications are difficult with those who are in faraway places. We tried to contact them. Those we contacted responded. Naturally this is good because the other subject discussed in this meetig was opening the national dialogue. This opening of the national dialogue is very good and it can only be in the interest of the Algerian people.

[Khazimi] Is there a coalition among the parties at the coming elections?

[Allalou] So far there is not, but we say perhaps in the future. Naturally, there are common grounds. You know there are common grounds among all the parties and there are things that make them different. As far as we are concerned, we have a number of things that we share with the other parties.

[Correspondent] The minister of interior has said that from the constitutional point of view the elections cannot be postponed. What do you say to that?

[Allalou] As Cherifi said, the president has the authority to do so. That is why we addressed ourselves to the president and left the problem in his hands. Now we are waiting for the president to answer.

[Correspondent] On the other hand, there are some parties who asked for the elections to be held on the specified date.

[Allalou] Who are these parties?

[Correspondent] Other parties.

[Allalou] We have not heard of parties who called for that. There are parties who called for postponement, and there are parties who did not give their opinion. We have not heard their opinion.

[Khazimi] But you submitted the names of your candidates?

[Allalou] No. All the parties submitted candidates. Submitting names of candidates does not mean that we do not call for postponement. This is the problem.

[Khazimi] [Question indistinct]

[Allalou] I think there will be a postponement after these consultations, and perhaps the president will contact the other sides, and there will be a postponement. I think there will be a postponement. I cannot give you....

[Cherifi, interrupting] The postponement should be at least to the end of the year because there are new parties [words indistinct]. Under the current circumstances and resources these parties cannot participate in the elections [words indistinct]. The only person who can postpone these elections is the president. This is what we asked for today with the attendance of these parties. He is the only who can take this initiative for the benefit of democracy and for the benefit of consultations, because hurrying these elections [words indistinct] [end recording]

Socialist Forces Front To Boycott Elections

LD0304223990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The Front of Socialist Forces [FFS] will boycott the forthcoming [local] elections. This was announced by Mr. Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the FFS, during a press conference in Algiers today. We refuse, said Hocine Ait Ahmed, to support elections that are a real farce, because everything is done according to FLN [National Liberation Front] interests. We state our determination to continue our struggle by maintaining our position, added Mr. Ait Ahmed, who feels that only the election of a new constituent assembly which would define the power of all institutions would allow the exercise of people's sovereignty. Mr. Ait Ahmed talked about the problem of information, describing the law on the press voted by the National Popular Assembly as antidemocratic and repressive.

Party of Algerian Renewal Presents Policy

LD0304153390

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1225 GMT on 3 April broadcasts a 10-minute program presenting the platform of the Party of Algerian Renewal. An unidentified representative of the party says it intends to rebuild Algeria on firm bases relying on tradition and dynamism. The party plans to oppose the regime and remove it from power, he says. Its economic policy is based on support for private enterprise, and it intends to build a strong social security system. Culturally, the party recognizes all the languages spoken by Algerian nationals, and encourages their cultural activities. The party also supports the separation of the judiciary from the executive, he says, and it plans to pursue a balanced foreign policy.

Union Protests Food Prices During Ramadan

LD0304133890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Concerning the latest news on the rise in the price of vegetables, fruit, and meat at the beginning of Ramadan—and while the market is witnessing a preposterous rise in the price of various goods—the general union of Algerian Workers has issued a statement in which it condemned the persistent fall in the purchasing power of citizens, particularly in the holy month of Ramadan. This is in despite of numerous appeals to the authorities to stop the manipulation of prices and the practices which are contary to the teachings of the Islamic religion in this holy month. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Daily Assails U.S. Senate Decision on Jerusalem

NC0404110690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0737 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has emphasized that Egypt's condemnation of all attempts to change the legal status of Jerusalem came in the wake of the U.S. Senate's strange decision to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel; this is considered to set a precedent absolutely unique since World War II. In an editorial today, the paper states that the U.S. decision runs counter to the basic principles of international law and contravenes all international resolutions on the Middle East issue, particularly the Security Council resolutions that laid the foundations and principles for a peaceful settlement recognized by the entire international community.

AL-AHRAM states that the Senate decision runs counter not only to international norms, laws, and traditions, but also to all values, traditions, and principles on which the system and society in America are built. This decision disavows the main image that America seeks to project as the protector and promoter of human rights on the international level and as a bastion for civilized human traditions in the modern age.

AL-AHRAM also says that with the continued flagrant U.S. bias toward Israel against the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights and its support for Israel's inhuman and unethical stand in the occupied Arab land, the United States is unquestionably losing its credibility as a main party in the peace dialogue in the Middle East and is even preparing the theater for an extremely cruel situation, tension, chaos, and instability. In conclusion, the paper says that the U.S. is making efforts in the UN General Assembly for the adoption of a new resolution abrogating the resolution passed in 1975 that states that Zionism is a form of racism. These efforts affirm the total dimensions of the flagrant episode seeking to destroy the hopes for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Daily Decries Western Pressure on Arab Countries

NC0404105290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has criticized recent Western pressure on a number of Arab countries and accusations that they produce nuclear arms. The paper says that these pressures are aimed at preventing the Arab countries from achieving any civil or military scientific progress. In an editorial today, the paper calls on the Arab world to confront these pressures

firmly and strongly through strategic scientific planning and collective Arab cooperation in civil and military fields according to a long-term plan for development and self-sufficiency.

AL-AHRAM notes Britain's accusation that Iraq attempted to smuggle electrical devices said to be used in producing nuclear arms. It also notes Washington's insistence on dismantling the Libyan al-Rabitah plant despite the recent fire there on the pretext that it is still capable of producing chemical weapons. The paper notes the accusations leveled at several other Arab countries on producing such types of weapons.

AL-AHRAM states that despite the fact that it has been ascertained that Israel possesses nuclear arms, we have not heard one Western voice demanding, for example, that Israeli nuclear installations be inspected or seeking to impose a ban on the components for manufacturing such destructive arms. On the contrary, the paper says, all Western powers hasten covertly and openly to support Israel and to provide it with technical and material resources.

Mubarak, Sidqi Stress Unity, Security

NC0304122090 Cairo MENA in English 1125 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 3 (MENA)—Egypt will not permit dissension to be sown between its main two sects, the Muslims and the Copts, having been brethren over the history of the country, President Husni Mubarak said today.

The statement was made at his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the new governor of al-Minya, upper Egypt, Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi. The meeting followed the ceremony wherein the new governor was sworn in.

We shall not allow any heedless, inconsiderate acts to impair our national unity, Dr. Sidqi told reporters after the meeting.

He deplored the recent events at al-Minya terming them as "unacceptable." We shall not tolerate such events on the official level or otherwise, he said to maintain security and stability in Egypt. Those events at al-Minya should not rpt not have been thus manipulated, he added.

Awqaf Minister Warns Against Sedition

NC0304124090 Cairo MENA in English 1143 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, April 3 (MENA)—Minister of Awqaf Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub said today pious youth would receive every encouragement provided they kept away from those who incited sedition which caused dissension among the sons of the one nation.

He urged that behaviour reflect the true picture of Islam. The minister was speaking at a popular rally in the town of Manfalut as part of a tour the minister and a number of leading Muslim religious men are making of the provinces during the current fasting month of Ramadan.

Dr. Mahjub said all should seek opinion from those concerned from among the learned men of religion.

Muslim and Christian religious leaders attended the rally in which more than 20,000 people took part.

'Abd-al-Majid on 'Danger' of Jewish Emigration

NC0404102890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territory is the greatest danger now facing the Arab nation. In a statement published in today's Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y Al-'AMM, he called for confronting this danger on all fronts and through unified Arab action, as this danger threatens all Arab countries. He said that the current circumstances require a special Arab summit conference in the prevailing atmosphere of good Arab relations, which provide an opportunity for successful joint Arab action.

'Abd-al-Majid said that there is no threat from Ethiopia to the Nile river sources as there are international agreements between Egypt and Ethiopia preventing any such threats. He said that Egypt has good ties with the Nile basin countries, "which reassure us that these countries will commit no excesses regarding the Nile waters."

'Abd-al-Majid Departs for ACC Meeting in Amman

NC0404111490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this morning for Amman to attend the quadripartite meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers scheduled to convene in Amman later today. In a statement before he left, he said the meeting is one of the regular ACC meetings and is designed to discuss the current Arab situation. Jordan, the current holder of the ACC chairmanship, had previously called for this meeting in Amman.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for Release of Hostages

LD0404084390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Apr (JANA)—JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has called upon all Muslims in all corners of the world to release the

hostages and prisoners of conscience to mark the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, the month of love and forgiveness. He emphasized the need to adhere to the noble Islamic values which affirm the honor and humanity of man and the nontaking of innocent hostages.

Al-Qadhdhafi made the call in his capacity as leader of the World Popular Islamic Command.

He recalled the hostages in the Middle East region, who are of various nationalities and religions—especially French hostage Jacqueline Valente and her family.

The brother leader greeted Muslims on this bountiful occasion.

Al-Qadhdhafi Says U.S. Must Depart Mediterranean

LD0404090790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0743 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has called for the departure of the United States from the Mediterranean region to promote peace and stability in the region.

In a message sent yesterday to the 83d conference of the International Parliamentary Union, which is currently taking place in Nicosia, the brother leader accused the United States of turning the Mediterranean region into an arena of war in which it is spreading its bases and fleets.

The leader said that the Mediterranean Sea should be a sea of peace and stability, and that this could not be achieved without America's departure.

Morocco

Minister of Interior Holds News Conference

LD0304085390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information, held at the ministry headquarters today a meeting with journalists from the national and international press accredited to Rabat. [passage omitted]

In reply to the questions of the journalists, Mr. Driss Basri, highlighted the good relations existing between Algeria and Morocco, affirming the readiness of Morocco to hold a referendum in the Sahrawi regions which is free, has integrity, and is remote from any administrative or military pressure.

In reply to a question about the visit which Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar paid to Morocco and Algeria, Mr. Driss Basri answered saying that the UN secretary general came to Morocco leading an important delegation which was composed of Mr. Abdulrahim Farah, UN assistant secretary general in charge of special political questions, the director of his office Issa Dialo and his special representative in charge of the Sahara affair, Mr. Johannes Manz, and a number of his assistants. His excellency the minister said that this visit came within the framework of the good offices which the UN General Assembly entrusted the secretary general to carry out and which was represented in holding talks with the concerned parties with the aim to seek the ways and means liable to hold a referendum on self-determination which was free, had integrity, and was removed from any administrative or military pressure of any nature.

He added that in this very framework, the UN secretary general came to Morocco and this visit enabled him to review the various aspects of the issue wth the Moroccan authorities and hold talks with his majesty on this issue. The same thing took place with Algeria, in its capacity as a concerned observer country and also with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario]. He also added that during his stay in our country, Mr. Perez de Cuellar presented the results of his good offices and informed his majesty the king of his contacts with the various parties and the efforts which he was going to make with the current OAU chairman, President Husni Mubarak.

Mr. Basri said that soon the secretary general would submit to the UN Security Council his conclusions and suggestions in order to define precisely the schedule which would lead to the organization of the scheduled referendum which would enable the inhabitants, who had the right, to vote and express their views with all freedom.

In reply to a question about the latest statements of Mohamed Abdelaziz concerning the possibility of a withdrawal of Moroccan forces and administration from the Sahara, his excellency the minister affirmed that Abdelaziz's affirmations did not compel Morocco to do anything and that the issue of withdrawal of Moroccan Royal Armed Forces and administration was a matter which was beyond the current stage of the schedule and that no UN or OAU resolution stipulated that clearly.

In reply to another question concerning the explanation which Morocco would give to the Algerian television's hosting Mohamed Abdelaziz, Mr. Driss Basri stated that Algeria was a sovereign country and consequently the Algerian television was free to invite whoever it wanted, whenever it wanted and that with regard to what Abdelaziz said, that concerned nobody but him. His excellency the minister said: I would like to stress that the relations between Morocco and Algeria were good and were developing continuously toward rapprochement and cooperation for the good of the two peoples of Morocco and Algeria under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II and his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

In reply to a question about the likelihood of convening a meeting between Morocco and the Polisario at the UN under the auspices of the Secretary General, Mr. Driss Basri answered: As I mentioned previously, the meetings

or negotiations have been led up to now by the UN secretary general in the framework of his good offices. In this same context he came to Morocco to inform the Moroccan authorities of the dossier and the development of his efforts and he informed His Majesty King Hassan II of that and pointed out that on the day that he would study the issue from all its aspects, he would submit a report on the topic to the Security Council which would then adopt the measures which should be taken to organize the referendum.

Regarding direct negotiations with the Polisario, Mr. Basri said in the end: You know very well that Morocco has always rejected them, and it is not at all ready to change its opinion.

Sudan

Minister Resigns; Possible Cabinet Reshuffle

PM0404102490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Reshuffle Expected in Sudan Amid Reports of Shummu's Resignation"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Sudanese sources have said that Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Shummu has submitted his resignation from the government.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Shummu was dissatisfied at the cancellation by Lieutenant Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim, presidential affairs minister, and Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, information spokesman for the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], of decisions which he issued recently endorsing the publication of two sports newspapers.

The sources said that although Shummu still officially denies his resignation, some people close to him confirm that he has submitted his resignation but not yet received a reply.

The sources expect a limited cabinet reshuffle affecting other ministries. In this connection the sources pointed out that Finance Minister Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Zaki has lost much of his power to Col. Salah-al-Din Karrar, NSRCC member and head of the Council's Economic Committee. [passage omitted]

NSRCC member Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has said that the salvation government's raising of the issues of peace and the Armed Forces' victories have made the Garang Movement abandon the conditions concerning the abolition of military treaties.

In a statement published by the Sudanese newspaper AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH yesterday Colonel Khalifah urged the Garang Movement to stop raising any issues concerning sovereignty so that a comprehensive peace can be achieved in south Sudan.

Al-Bashir Home After Signing Nonaggression Pact

EA0304083990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, and his delegation returned home from Kampala this afternoon after a two-day official visit to Uganda. Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, NSRCC deputy chairman, the NSRCC secretary general, a number of members of the council, and ministers met him at the Khartoum airport.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir told a radio correspondent after his return that the visit had been successful. An agreement had been signed by Sudan and Uganda stipulating nonaggression by either state against the other and guaranteeing that no armed operation would be mounted by either state against the other. Neither state would permit any hostile armed activity, this to ensure stability on the border between the two countries. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir added that peace in the region and the Uganda's role in ending the problem of the south had been discussed during the visit.

200 Refugees Said Entering Country Daily

EA0304090390 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, the commissioner for refugees, has confirmed that the rate of inflow across Sudan's eastern border is now 200 refugees a day. He said he was in close touch with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] regarding this continuous influx and to the expected effects of the famine in Ethiopia in the context of alternative plans for these effects. He said that contacts are continuing with the UNHCR to increase the volume of assistance for refugees inside Sudan.

He said contacts are also in progress between the Commission for Refugees, the UNHCR office, and the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum concerning the repatriation of the refugees—those who had crossed the border following the escalation of military operations in Mitsiwa—to their original homes. The commissioner for refugees said the majority of these refugees had expressed the desire to return voluntarily to Mitsiwa during a recent visit paid by his excellency and the Ethiopian ambassador to Port Sudan. The refugees number 160.

Rebels Charge National Islamic Front Conspiracy

EA0304125190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The National Islamic Front [NIF] has now openly announced that it plotted the coup that overthrew

the government of former prime minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi. This admission of NIF conspiracy not only against the Sadiq government but against the peace-loving Sudanese community was made by the leader of the NIF himself, Hasan al-Turabi. In an article carried by AL-QABAS newspaper on 26 March 1990, Hasan Al-Turabi openly said the NIF was the architect of the 30 June coup and that it now directs the present junta to implement the Islamic program for the Sudan. Here is an excerpt from the translation of the (?article):

Talking about the country's future to the Sudanese citizens living in London, the leader of the Islamic fundamentalists in Sudan, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi said multiparty democracy has failed in Sudan, citing that Sadiq al-Mahdi had ruled Sudan five times under the multiparty democracy (?system), but this type of democracy failed and did not benefit the Sudanese. He also referred to the single-party system as a failure under Numayri's rule.

Dr. Turabi told his audience that the NIF is the only hope for Sudan and will continue to rule the country to prepare the ground and transform Sudan into an Islamic state embodying federalism. He said the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council] will also work out Islamic law and regulations for the civil service. He further said that the traditional parties no longer pose any danger to the system of rule being pursued by the NIF—a modern and necessary political organ for Sudan—a fact that revealed itself in the last democratic elections in which the NIF won all the graduate seats, defeating the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and Ummah Parties in these constituencies.

The Ummah Party is no longer a party, he said. Some of its members like 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of economy and foreign trade in February 1989 and Bakri Ahmad 'Adil have joined the NIF. The NIF has won over Muhammad 'Abd al-Hakam Tayfur from the DUP. The obvious situation is that among the cadres of Ummah Party, Dr. Turabi said, there are people who are convinced by the objectives of the NIF, which is gaining more support from the Ummah Party members. Hence the Ummah Party is not a threat to the objectives and programs of the NIF. As for the rest of the defunct political parties, they are only nominal and exist in the form of slogans. Communism, he said, is dead the world over and has no place in Sudan.

Dr. Turabi went on to say that the NIF is today the future of Sudan's political and economic progress. The NIF is not an isolated political organization, but it has support in the Army. He said that 75 percent of officers, NCO's, and Army men are NIF members, and the remaining 25 percent is insignificant. The NIF managed to inculcate within the Army and civil service its political and religious rituals. We have managed to control the Army and the schools and universities for the last 40 years, Dr. Turabi asserted. Today all the leaderships of student organizations are active members of NIF. The NIF controls 40 percent of trade unions, hence strikes against the present regime have failed and all efforts to try to paralyze the productive sector and the civil service through strikes or civil disobedience like the doctors' strike have been foiled. This confirms that any strike in future is untenable.

Dr. Turabi went on to say that the government under the guidance of the NIF is now doing everything to purify the civil service of wrongful elements. This same process is also going on in the organized forces. The people who now hold leadership positions in the Army and other pubilc offices are those with a strong belief in Islam. It is because the Western countries want to destroy Islam that after the conference on economy held in Khartoum, the present government rejected the conditions of the IMF for assisting Sudan. We will not allow the IMF or Western countries to destroy Islam through their financial assistance or loans. We will be helped by the Islamic Front, Dr. Turabi said. That also ends the excerpt.

And now to comment on that article: Hasan al-Turabi's claim that democracy has failed in Sudan is a baseless and unrealistic distortion of reality, and it is characteristic of Islamic fundamentalist thinking. Democracy in Sudan has never been given enough of a chance to prove itself. This fact is evident in that the country has seen 22 years of military dictatorship of the 34 years of the country's independence. What has failed in the Sudan is military dictatorship. The dictatorship of Numayri embodied and was even directed by Muslim fundamentalists. Now to announce openly that they want to establish a theocratic state in the Sudan is a disastrous move which only tear the country apart. [passage omitted]

While the Sudanese political forces and the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] were preparing for the national constitutional conference to resolve Sudan's central problems, the NIF staged their coup, deceiving the Sudanese Army. Hasan al-Turabi tries to mislead the Sudanese and the world community that the NIF enjoys the support of 75 percent of the Sudanese Army. If this is true, why has the regime dismissed such a large number of the officers of the Sudanese Army? Does this mass dismissal of officers of the Sudanese Army reflect support of the Army for the junta? Does this not reveal that the junta is fearful of the Sudanese Army? And does not this move of dismissals by the junta aim at destroying the Sudanese Army?

The junta's action towards the army confirms their aim to destroy the Sudanese Army in the following manner:

1. The dismissed officers are replaced by elements of Islamic fundamentalists.

2. The extrajudicial execution of certain nationalities in the Sudanese Army.

3. The junta is fearful of the Sudanese Army whom they deceived at the time the handful of officers of the NIF usurped on 30th June 1989.

4. Escalation of the war by the junta with their mistaken belief that the Sudanese Army and the SPLM/SPLA will fight themselves to the finish. [passage omitted]

To examine other aspects of al-Turabi's lies, the NIF cannot talk of support within the organized forces and the civil service when they are continuing to dismiss professionals from the civil service in order to reduce opposition. Al-Turabi even contradicted the NIF's alleged support by saying that the NIF has now embarked on purifying the civil service and the organized forces of bad elements. This purification he talks about means dismissal, arrest and detention of non-Muslim fundamentalists from the service and the organized forces. How then could a regime that illusions itself with popularity, console itself with dismissal, arrest and detention of the very people it claims support it.

Evidently the utter abuses of human rights in Sudan by the present junta reveal the junta's struggle to entrench itself even through the most inhuman method they could employ. The method used by the junta to torture detainees is evident of an unpopular regime. [passage omitted]

If the present junta commands a popular support among the Sudanese masses, it would not have resorted to the mean, harsh, inhuman and degrading ill treatment of the Sudanese people. Whatever brutality or repressive measures the junta employs will not bar the Sudanese people from their struggle for freedom, justice, equality and progress.

Opposition on Junta's 'Dream of Reconciliation'

EA0404103390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] We comment on the junta's dream of reconciliation:

After tasting the bitterness of war, which they chose instead of peace, the National Islamic Front [NIF] regime in Khartoum must now come to their senses that sectarian thinking—and certainly when it comes to underestimating the powers of the masses of the people—is nothing less than taking poison. Although during the past months, the junta has been trying to convince the world opinion that the NIF regime has the support of the Sudanese people, time has now revealed beyond any reasonable doubt that the kickings, beatings, degradation, and arbitrary detentions to which the junta has subjected the sons and daughters of the Sudan have failed its objectives.

Faced with the dilemma of their poor performance in the field and their failure to get the badly-needed support to their regime from the people, 'Umar al-Bashir now tries to admit that they have taken the wrong direction. (?As from the) [word indistinct] they usurped power on 30 june [1989], the Islamic fundamentalist junta poured all sorts of insults upon the political parties and the trade and professional unions that they banned and dissolved. The junta called the political parties unnecessary and accused them of incompetence and of failing to lead the country to progress and prosperity. The junta even went further to swear that the political parties shall never again see the dawn of their participation in Sudan's political arena. With the understanding that the state of emergency they imposed will suppress mass action against their regime, the junta embarked on warmongering, priding [as heard] that they have buried the political parties and will clear up what they so-called [as heard] southern problem by means of military might.

It was with this shallow-mindedness and wishful thinking that the junta prouded [as heard] of wiping out the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. Early this year, the junta's chief of staff announced publicly that the year 1990 will mark the end of the SPLA. That coming from a senior army officer, and even more so from a chief of staff, confirms that the globe-trotting by the junta's delegations was preparation for offensives which they launched at the close of last year. But, as the situation on the ground revealed, a military victory for the junta is unattainable. Meanwhile, the repressive measures adopted by Khartoum to obstruct opposition to their rule is a [word indistinct] with continuous arbitrary arrests and detentions and extrajudicial executions, the junta is not only painting their image black, but it is only adding fuel to fire of the growing mass opposition.

The burden of war and mounting mass disgust for their regime has forced the junta to accept the fact that no tyrant can dream of success to force on to the people of the Sudan a theocratic state by means of repression and brutality. By sending Hasan al-Turabi, who considers himself the hard-line architect of Islamic fundamentalism in the Sudan, to London to initiate negotiations with the forces of opposition, the NIF surely have accepted a defeat to [as heard] the inevitable.

At this crossroads of the junta's trying to impose theocratic rule on the Sudanese and their poor military performance in the field—coupled with mounting opposition and international pressure—the NIF must come to their senses and accept the present conflict in the country as a central problem of the Sudan which can only be resolved through the participation of all the political forces in the country, including the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], as contained in the Sudanese peace initiative signed by the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party].

Contradictorily, Hasan al-Turabi talks of the NIF's firm control in the country, and even went further to claim that the other parties—here referring to the Ummah, DUP, the Communist and Ba'th Parties and the African parties which the junta dissolved with a stroke of a pen—are non-existent. The junta also talks of the trade and professional unions which they banned as non-existent.

Now, the question is: Who are these opposition forces that the NIF's junta want to negotiate with them with the aim of reconciliation? The junta, (?basking) in the humiliation of their selfstyled and barbaric illusion of solving the country's problems single-handed, now tells the Sudanese people and the world opinion that they have failed, and tries to draw in the political forces that they have been trampling on into a reconciliation. The one thing that the junta is blind to in their reconciliation drive is: How could this reconciliation with the internal opposition forces that the NIF now seeks help in resolving the Sudan's problems, since such an attempt does not aim at laying a broad basis for dialogue in the country. [sentence as heard] This so-called search for reconciliation by the NIF is a move to bribe some few individuals that they could later use for their propaganda ploy. If the NIF's junta is serious, they should have shown such intentions at home by releasing the leaders of the dissolved political parties now under detention, release the members of trade and professional unions and immediately improve their filthy human rights record.

The NIF dream of drawing the National Democratic Forum into their system is destined to fail. It is an obvious symptom that the collapse and extinction of the last Muslim fundamentalist encroachment on power is not far off. Let the NIF's junta be reminded that no selfstyled theory they try to put forward will only increase the gravity of their sinister and inhuman policy, which must go.

The SPLM/SPLA remains firm on the prerequisites and steps necessary for attainment of a comprehensive peace in the country as contained in the Sudanese peace initiative of November 1988. We advise the NIF to revive the SPLM/SPLA peace program of August 1989 and further advise them to throw away their block-mindedness [as heard] and shame and accept reality if they are to be taken seriously.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Messages From Gambia, Guinea

LD2903172890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received two written messages from Gambian President Dawda Jawara and President Conte of Guinea.

The two messages were delivered by the special envoys of the Gambian and Guinean presidents—Omar Sey, Gambian minister of foreign affairs; and Jean Traore, Guinean minister of youth [as heard].

The two messages are within the context of African efforts to find a solution to the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute and close the gap between the two countries.

Bahrain

State Condemns Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

JN0104130290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Apr (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has condemned the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Bahrain called on all peace-loving states and forces to work to safeguard world peace and security and to protect the rights of the Palestinian Arab people ignored by the U.S. resolution.

Bahrain added this resolution contravenes all international laws and norms and violates the UN resolutions that ban occupation authorities from changing the demographic features of the lands under occupation, not to mention the fact that this resolution runs counter to the delared U.S. policy vis-a-vis the occupied Arab territories.

This stand was expressed in a session held by the Council of Ministers under Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah in Manama today.

His highness the prime minister indicated this resolution, passed at a time when the world is moving toward a peaceful settlement of international problems, places a big obstacle in the face of regional peace efforts and hurts the feelings of the Arab and Islamic peoples. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

KUNA Urges Common Arab Stance Backing Iraq

LD0204105590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0940 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Unattributed "News Analysis"]

[Text] Kuwait, April 2 (KUNA)—The British-led campaign against Iraq in lieu with allegations that Baghdad was developing nuclear weapons was significantly torpedoed by no other authority than the Western media.

The uproar over the alleged attempt by Iraq to acquire nuclear triggering devices soon ebbed when the U.S. NBC Television network reported that the U.S., British and Israeli intelligence collaborated to turn a shipment of electrical devices to Iraq into an attempt to smuggle nuclear detonators.

Regardless of the fallacy of the accusations, the timing of the campaign against that Arab country is telling enough in itself.

The Western world which always wanted its protege, Israel, to remain the dominant force in the Middle East, was not coping well with the idea that Iraq has emerged from its eight-year-old war with Iran stronger and more prepared than ever to champion the Arab cause.

Against this background, and with Iraq's growing military might in mind, the London-based Iranian reporter Farzad Bazoft was sent to Iraq to spy on its military installations obviously for an eventual crippling military strike.

By enlisting further hatred against Iraq, Britain apparently wanted to distract world attention from Israel's political problems and international isolation.

The allegations that Iraq was building nuclear weapons is likely designed to set the stage for an aggression on that Arab country, which repeatedly denied having nuclear capabilities.

Whether the attack on Iraq remains confined to smear campaigns or takes the form of military action, Arab countries must come up with a common stance in support of Iraq and agree on specific reactions.

The Bazoft affair deplorably exposed the lack of coordination among Arab intelligence agencies as the spy who was executed by Iraq two weeks ago had been arrested in Tunis about one year before he entered Iraq.

The fact that the situation is grave enough should prompt Arab countries into serious actions on more levels than one to close such gaps and to back Iraq against the looming threat.

PDRY

Party Secretary Receives Soviet Delegation

EA0204094890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, this evening received a Soviet parliamentary delegation, led by Comrade Saparmurad Niyazov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet, and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Turkmenistan Communist Party, who conveyed to him greetings from Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR.

Welcoming the Soviet parliamentary delegation, Brother al-Bid hailed the historic relations between the two parts of the Yemen and the friendly USSR, describing these relations as distinguished by honest cooperation and unconditional aid provided by the USSR. The brother secretary general said our relations with the USSR were steadily developing, stressing the need to strengthen them in the various party, parliamentary, economic, social, and political areas. The secretary general said our country was proud to enjoy such relations and would try to strengthen them in the joint interests of the Yemeni and Soviet peoples, and in the interests of strengthening

security and stability. He also praised the steps being taken towards the unification of the two Yemens with a view to fulfilling the dream of the Yemeni people for unity and progress. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet leadership for its support for the unificatory steps. He stressed Yemeni unity would be an important and positive factor in strengthening cooperation between the states of the region and towards strengthening security and stability in the region.

For his part, the leader of the Soviet delegation conveyed congratulations on his own behalf and that of the Soviet people to the leaderships of the two parts and to our Yemeni people on the unificatory steps, expressing satisfaction at visiting our country and the results which had been achieved from the visit, which certainly would serve to strengthen Yemeni-Soviet relations. He praised the level to which these relations had risen.

The brother secretary general charged Comrade Niyazov with conveying his greetings to Comrade Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to France

EA0304181890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] This evening Dr. 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister and member of the Central Committee, returned to Aden from France after a visit of several days at the invitation of Mr. Roland Dumas, French foreign minister.

Dr. al-Dali told ADEN NEWS AGENCY he discussed with his French colleague bilateral relations in all areas and the methods of developing and strengthening them. They moreover discussed Arab-European relations, the Middle East and the Palestinian cause, and the importance of the European role in attaining solutions for the Palestinian people, who are suffering under the arbitrary rule of Zionist occupation forces.

He said he also discussed with his French colleague the importance of avoiding tension in the Red Sea; ensuring its stability, security, and peace; and removing any military presence, because of the importance of this international waterway.

He was received on arrival at the airport by Brother Dr. Shayi Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Reports of Border Rift With Oman

LD0104103290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh, 1 April, (SPA)—An authoritative source made a statement today to SPA in which he said: "A report in THE ECONOMIST of yesterday said there are differences in opinion among officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the international border agreement between the Kingdom and the Sultanate of Oman." THE INDEPENDENT issue of 31 March also published a similar report.

The source added: "All the information in the aforementioned report and newspaper regarding this is without any truth, chapter and verse. We very much regret some media organs, whose reports are respected by the reader, have been influenced by sources disseminating fabrication, doubt and disinformation."

United Arab Emirates

SFRY Opens Embassy in Abu Dhabi

JN3103212290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Mar (WAKH)—The SFRY has opened an embassy in Abu Dhabi for the first time since the two countries established diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level on 15 November 1986. On this occasion, Kilik Murdaj [name as received], SFRY deputy charge d'affaires, arrived in the United Arab Emirates on 13 March to begin his mission after meeting with 'Ubayd Salim, chief of protocol at the Emirian Foreign Ministry.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Receives Ethiopian Delegation

JN0304220490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at noon today the Ethiopian delegation participating in the Ethiopian-Eritrean negotiations being conducted in Sanaa. The Ethiopan delegation is headed by Shewandagan Belete, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee.

The Ethiopian official during the meeting delivered to the brother secretary general a letter from Ethiopan President Mengistu Haile-Mariam on bilateral relations and the situation in the Horn of Africa. In his letter, the Ethiopian president expressed his appreciation for the efforts our country has exerted to host this meeting, which seeks to settle the Eritrean problem through peaceful means and in a manner that will bring security and stability to the Horn of Africa and will embody the aspirations of the peoples in the region for development and prosperity.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and member of the General Committee, attended.

Binary Weapon Called 'Message to Everyone'

JN0304123790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that the new Iraqi weapon, the binary chemical, is an Iraqi message to everyone and a new important lesson for those who attempt to commit a reckless aggression on Iraq's scientific achievements.

In an editorial today, the paper said: If London and Washington are in one way or another pushing the Zionist entity to commit a reckless new aggression against Iraq, we tell them very clearly that the old days have gone, never to return. The paper strongly warned that the Iraqi retaliation this time will not only be in self-defense but will have a deterrent nature in the full sense of the word. Any missile that would fall on Iraqi territory will be countered with flames that will eat half of Israel if the Zionist attempted to commit a new aggression.

The paper wondered what the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation expected after eight years of harsh and destructive war, where they placed Iraq's stands and the effectiveness of Iraqi positions and its external policy on the regional and international levels, and how they rated Iraq's will within Iraq's overall resources. The paper said that Iraq's new binary chemical weapon, which is now outside the control of the superpowers because it is in Iraq's possession, has been developed through Iraq's own resources and by Iraqi hands.

The paper stressed that the future will bring new surprises for the enemies and they must make proper calculations for each step they take toward Iraq and for each aggression they intend to carry out with the aim of destroying Iraq's scientific achievements.

The paper called on the various international quarters to understand the significance of the Iraqi message about the binary weapon and to deter the Zionist entity and those supporting it against carrying out any reckless move in this direction. The paper called on Thatcher to realize now, more than ever, that the sun of the British has set and the mentality of colonial administration and of dealing with colored people has gone for ever. The paper said that no power on earth could terrify Iraq and that the only means of preserving British interests in the region is for Britain to renounce such futile policies.

The paper described the binary chemical weapon as a new and important lesson which everyone must learn if they wanted to deal with Iraq and the Arabs.

The paper emphasized that the Iraqis will not allow the Zionists and others in the region to threaten Iraq by disturbing the balance of power in the region. Iraq's bag will be full of surprises for anyone who bares his teeth to attack Iraq. God be our witness, we have conveyed the message. Accursed be the lowly ones.

Paper: Eliminate Israeli 'Nuclear Arsenal'

JN0304131590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH warns the Zionist entity and its allies against embarking on any foolish adventures against Iraq.

The paper adds Iraq has its defensive plans and means of deterrence. The paper goes on to say the Zionist entity must consider its future steps carefully before moving to implement any of them.

In an article published today, the paper says Iraq will not spare itself the duty to defend itself and the nation through using all available means, particularly that the Zionist enemy is being given a free hand to possess the most lethal means of destruction, and its endeavors regarding this are not subjected to any control or monitored by international legitimacy.

The paper calls for eliminating the nuclear arsenal of the Zionist entity, considering this is the proper way to end the nuclear arms race in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls for placing nuclear activities under the supervision of the international legitimacy, which supervises the activities of the Arabs regarding this, particularly Iraq.

The paper holds Britain responsible for orchestrating a carefully studied terrorist campaign involving a move from the espionage stage to that of interference in Iraq's more sensitive and delicate defense affairs. It adds Britain has chosen to be the spearhead for the traditional party that always has worked against Arab advancement and progress.

AL-JUMHURIYAH tackles the U.S. role in the unjust anti-Iraq campaign and says: Had it really been serious in working against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the United States would not have accepted involvement in the exposed British-Zionist terrorist scheme. It moreover would have accepted as true the reports of the International [Atomic] Energy Authority, which monitors all nuclear activity in Iraq, which is proceeding toward sound industrial development.

AL-JUMHURIYAH accuses Britain, the United States, and other international parties of overlooking the disgraceful state of affairs regarding the inequitable treatment accorded to the Arabs, compared with that accorded the Zionist entity.

Paper Says Iraq 'Will Never Submit to Pressure'

JN0304140690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Iraq, supported by the entire Arab nation, will never submit to pressure, that it rejects all attempts to undermine it, and it is determined to implement its

scientific and technological programs guaranteeing progress, prosperity, security, and stability for Iraq and its people.

In an editorial today headlined, "Beware, This Is Iraq," the paper stresses Iraq is as hard as a diamond, and even harder, as President Saddam Husayn said, so all the main players should beware of this Iraq and seek its friendship, or otherwise they will be the losers.

The paper adds: The hostile Anglo-American campaign against Iraq being launched by the British-U.S.-Zionist circles has revealed its ugly Zionist face and exposed its premeditated objectives and intentions to pave the way for a new Zionist aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. When the small players failed to achieve what their masters conceived, and when Bazoft went to hell, the main players unveiled their ugly faces and began themselves to manage the affairs of the aggression against Iraq.

The paper points out they are creating a fabricated clamor over a normal and legitimate trade deal between an Iraqi university and two U.S. and British companies concluded through open and ordinary correspondence. The objective of this deal was to secure material, whose total price did not exceed $10,500, purely for scientific and university purposes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ridicules the attempts made by the hostile Anglo-American circles when they tried to involve their agents and intelligence people in this deal with the mean objective of involving the Iraqi sides and tempting them to purchase other material used for illegitimate purposes in an attempt to embarrass Iraq and justify an aggression against it.

The paper stresses that the agents, faced by the awareness and vigilance of the Iraqi side and its refusal to respond to their offers, continued to play their game according to the orders of the main players, who were interested in implementing the hostile Zionist scheme.

The paper points out this fabricated propaganda campaign is one of a continuous series of campaigns, whose objective is to tarnish Iraq's international reputation, besiege it, prevent it from implementing its scientific and technological programs, and to pave the way for a premeditated Zionist aggression against the Iraqi civilian and military scientific installations.

The paper draws attention to the fact Iraq, which they are trying to accuse of manufacturing nuclear weapons and of obtaining equipment for them from the U.S. market, is one of the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, is committed to the provisions of this treaty, and that this is attested to by the International Atomic Energy Authority, whose representatives pay regular inspection visits to the Iraqi installations.

Arab League To Discuss Anti-Iraq 'Campaign'

JN0304150690 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, Apr 3, INA—Arab League Council on Thursday [5 April] holds an emergency session at the permanent delegates level to discuss dangers of continuation of the British-Zionist-American campaign against Iraq.

Mr. Hamid 'Alwan al-Jiburi, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League told INA's correspondent in Tunis that the Arab League Council would, in its emergency session, express solidarity with Iraq in the measures taken for protecting its national security against acts of espionage and aggression.

He made it clear that Iraq had called for holding this emergency session after the hostile circles in Britain, America and the Zionist entity had continued in stepping up their iniquitous campaigns against Iraq and fabricated the recent crisis related to the subject of developing the Iraqi nuclear capabilities which are basically devoted to peaceful purposes.

Iraq's permanent delegate also affirmed that continuity of the hostile campaign was implying that there was a grave conspiracy machinated against Iraq by the American and Zionist and British circles that try with various means to get the Zionist entity from the crisis it was currently leading. [sentence as received]

He said it was necessary that Iraq take the initiative of calling for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council so as to put the Arab brothers before their national responsibilities in solidarity with Iraq and adopt a resolute stance versus any possible aggression, proceeding from their responsibility for the defence of their national and pan-Arab security.

Mr. al-Jiburi added that the hostile campaign against Iraq could not be isolated from the organized and continuous campaign of distortion which was aimed at offending Iraq's reputation with the purpose of preparing for aggression on it and its scientific and industrial installations, in addition to preventing it by different means from maintaining its natural right to progress and possession of technology.

Paper Reports Explosions in 'Ammunition' Depots

NC0304190790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] AL-JIHAD has reported an explosion destroyed two ammunition depots [as received] in Karkuk in northern Iraq. The paper said the Iraqi security forces have arrested Colonel Yusuf Muhammad, commander of the 3d Radar Regiment, who was in charge of the place where the explosion occurred, and took him to an unknown destination.

AL-JIHAD noted the commander of a regiment of the 612d Unit in Dahuk was arrested along with 39 officers and soldiers of that regiment, following an explosion in a depot.

AL-JIHAD added some of the pipes transporting Iraqi oil across Saudi Arabia recently were set on fire.

Right of Self-Defense Asserted at Arms Talks

JN0304200490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Geneva, 3 Apr (INA)—Iraq has declared it has every right and is dutybound to prepare what is necessary to defend itself and preserve its pan-Arab security according to the principles of international law.

Dr. Rahim 'Abd-al-Kital, Iraqi ambassador to Austria and head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the disarmament conference currently taking place here, has said since Iraq is an independent sovereign country, it has a strong and indisputable right to obtain the technology it needs for industrial, scientific, and social growth, and that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is nothing other than that.

Mr. Rahim 'Abd-al-Kital added that since the treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons provided ways and means to supervise and investigate—a task entrusted to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]—then the attempt by any party to take the law into its own hands and assign to itself the role of policeman to carry out the supervision instead of the IAEA will diminish the value of the IAEA and greatly abuse its system of guarantees.

The head of the Iraqi delegation warned against the propaganda and deception campaigns brought against Iraq by Britain, the U.S., and the Zionist entity. He said this campaign's only purpose is to pave the way for a new act of aggression against Iraqi industrial and scientific establishments and to contain the legitimate ambitions of the Iraqi people to progress and develop.

He said the continuation of this campaign against Iraq, related to the treaty on banning the spread of nuclear weapons, soon will raise questions about the usefulness of this treaty and will have a damaging effect on the fourth revision conference of the treaty. [passage omitted]

Regarding the current negotiations to reach an international agreement banning the production, storage, and spread of chemical weapons, the Iraqi delegation head said this agreement should contain a binding pledge from the nuclear countries to take measures to disarm nuclear weapons on an equal basis with the disarmament of chemical weapons.

He said the agreement should also, as a first stage, legally bind the nuclear countries not to use nuclear weapons, according to the Geneva protocol of 1952 concerning the banning of nuclear weapon and poison gas use.

On the same topic, the Iraqi delegation head asked the commission be formed within the framework of the agreement to perform investigation and supervision and to be established on new bases and not along the lines of the existing commission.

He elaborated on this, saying the new commission should guarantee the rights equally for all member states. One country or group of countries should not benefit from the councils of the commission alone, with rights and privileges above those of the other countries. One country for example, cannot enjoy permanent membership unless this right is open to all countries.

He also asked that the commission's administrative and scientific councils be subject to scrutiny so there would be no vague language that could be interpreted in ways contrary to the principle of equality between the member states and their citizens' rights in occupying administrative, scientific, and inspection positions. [passage omitted]

He warned that the continuing current situation does not encourage effective measures in disarmament; no, on the contrary, it will lead to an accelerating arms race in the region. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi delegation head called on the disarmament conference participants to clearly declare their rejection, in fact, their condemnation, of individual measures—whether they are deceptive, threatening, or aggressive—as an alternative to disarmament negotiations.

Source Defends Position in Trigger Device Case

JN0304212290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—An official source in the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization has stated the recent campaign of slander and distortion against Iraq contained fabricated statements and seeks to divert attention from the true nature of the electric capacitors that were contracted for. The campaign seeks to portray them as krytron triggers, which can be possibly used for nuclear purposes. He added such devices never were part of the order, nor have they been mentioned in any correspondence or any followup by us to implement the contract.

Commenting on this campaign of slander, the source told INA the technical specifications of the capacitors are completely different from those of the krytrons. The source added the electric capacitors differ completely from the krytron trigger in shape, volume, weight, use, and performance. They also differ in terms of the number of electric poles, the interior design, and the basic functions each of them performs.

The source explained the radioisotopes [al-mushi'at] are used for storing electric charges and have two poles. They are of the type the U.S. CSI company produces for laser systems.

The source added: As for the krytron trigger, it is a four-pole electrical valve in a glass container used to produce electrical discharges in record time. This calls for passing an instantaneous high voltage current through the electric circuit.

Commenting on a detailed article in the British OBSERVER last Sunday [1 April] on the matter, published under the title "The Krytron Conspiracy," the source said nowhere in the article did the British paper refer to the order for capacitors, so as to make public opinion believe they would be used for nuclear purposes and to harm and slander Iraq.

Paper Stresses Determination To Confront Threats

JN0404090790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has reiterated that triumphant Iraq will not submit or compromise on its national and pan-Arab security.

The paper, published by the Defense Ministry, says: Our determination to confront threats and bury the conspiracy is derived from the nation's history, which is full of victories.

In an article today, the paper stresses Iraq's possession of the binary chemical weapon is part of its right, within the world strategic parity, to confront any threats posed by the enemies of the Arab nation to obstruct its progress and march.

AL-QADISIYAH reviews the contents of the important pan-Arab speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn the day before yesterday. It says: He diagnosed the hostile circles' serious move aimed at paving the way for the Zionist entity to carry out a surprise military aggression against Iraq to undermine the technological and scientific progress Iraq has made.

The paper ridicules the claims and illusions of hostile circles seeking to undermine Iraq's steadfastness and determination to continue on the road of comprehensive development. It says these circles forget Iraq has a strategic depth represented by the Arab nation, which considers Iraq its impregnable fortress that is defending the eastern flank.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses Iraq will continue to be the strike force in the face of all challenges to the Arab nation's dignity and pride. It says Iraq's reply has come through its leader Saddam Husayn, who said lofty and triumphant Iraq never will submit or compromise, regardless of the hostile circles' stand toward the aspirations of the Arab people, who reject submission and capitulation.

International 'Responsibilities' Appreciated

JN0404094390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has described Iraq's warning to the hostile Zionist and imperialist forces trying to harm Iraq and undermine its great achievements as a serious warning which the Iraqi leader voiced in the name of the Iraqis and the Arabs at large.

In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH says: After Iraq has destroyed the main conspiracy of aggression and broken its backbone, and after it foiled all the wagering and evil designs that caused the prolongation of the war, it now is apparent to all right-thinking men the international powers involved in the conspiracy do not want to abandon their plans of harming and plotting against our people and nation or stop hurling balls of fire at Iraq, a method that could take other forms and assume guises that are different from direct aggression.

The paper notes these powers, disturbed by Iraq's victory and worried by its awakening and strength, continued to work to besiege it, hamper its triumphant march, and reduce its resources to weaken the pillars of its national and pan-Arab security. They painstakingly worked to prevent it from exercising its natural right to realize scientific and technological progress. Indeed, the big ones themselves discovered they had to play the game directly after playing it by proxy through Iran, especially, as our great historic leader Saddam Husayn said, when they noticed the Iraqis had established their march on the path of light toward the targets they had had in their minds—targets of a happy, prosperous life, and the transformation of Iraq into a strong bastion for defending the Arab nation's rights and security.

The paper points out that in their endeavors to besiege Iraq and impede its progress and awakening, the big ones used various immoral methods. They sought the help of spies and launched premeditated and tendentious political and media campaigns, released flagrant lies and allegations, fabricated false accusations, and hatched plots to implicate Iraq, tarnish its image, and justify aggression on it, despite the fact Iraq did not and will not commit aggression on anyone, did not violate international law, and despite its correct political line. These big ones, however, who are big by material and not moral standards, went too far in their games and plots, being under the illusion proud Iraq would submit to pressure, blackmail, and threats. They forgot Iraq, which for eight years steadfastly fought and defeated the greatest conspiracy in history, is not afraid, does not abandon its rights, and is much harder and stronger than they imagine.

The paper says the U.S. and British circles will be under a very great illusion indeed if they imagine this fabricated media and political uproar could give the Zionist entity a cover for launching a fresh aggression on our industrial or scientific installations. Indeed, they are

very deluded and mistaken because Iraq is aware of their plots and attempts. Iraq is fully alert. It sleeps with one eye open to watch them, and if the Zionist entity commits any aggression against it, Iraq is determined to let its fire consume half of this usurping entity.

The paper says Iraq needs no one to remind it of its international commitments and responsibilities. Iraq appreciates international responsibilities very well, but the others are the ones who do not appreciate them. After all, Iraq only acted within its natural right to realize scientific and technological progress. Iraq's awareness and appreciation of its international responsibilities, however, in no way means conceding its national and pan-Arab responsibilities. Iraq will not submit to threats or blackmail and will not be daunted by these campaigns and lies, which will not deviate it from protecting its sovereignty and its nation's dignity, and will not prevent it from continuing on the path of progress and awakening and enhancing the basic factors of its national and pan-Arab security.

The paper emphasizes these powers know very well Iraq possesses the will and the wherewithal to retaliate against any aggression. They also know Iraq has not been accustomed to making haphazard statements. This is a serious warning issued by Iraq's leader in the name of all the Iraqis and the Arabs at large. Let the others hear and digest this warning and remember it is Iraq's right to live in dignity, security, and peace.

Ramadan Receives Hungarian Finance Minister

JN0204181290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi. The first deputy prime minister hailed the good and developing relations between Iraq and Hungary. He stressed the need to find broader fields of cooperation in light of the new positive atmospheres after relations between the two countries have been marked by progress in the past years.

The Hungarian finance minister briefed Taha Yasin Ramadan on the outcome of his talks with Iraqi officials and stressed Hungary's interest in improving its relations with Iraq in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and acting finance minister, and the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Hungary

JN0304183090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The minutes of financial and economic cooperation between Iraq and Hungary were signed today at the Ministry of Finance today.

The minutes, which were signed for Iraq by Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and acting finance minister, and for Hungary by Mr. Laszlo Bekesi, Hungarian finance minister, include means of developing financial relations between the two countries, strengthening the links of economic and trade cooperation, and broadening the future horizons to serve the friendly countries.

Reaction, Reportage on Ofeq 2 Satellite Launch

Launched 3 Apr

TA0304125890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1238 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The Ofeq 2 satellite was launched into space a short while ago. Our Army affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el has just arrived in the studio with the details:

We merely have the initial details. Ofeq 2 was launched into space from a launching site in central Israel at precisely 1500 [1200 GMT]. We cannot divulge the precise location of the launching. Our correspondent, present at the event, says he observed a red ball of fire shooting into the sky; it could be seen for approximately 30 seconds, after which it gradually disappeared.

We now are waiting for the official—and more detailed—announcement by the Israel Aircraft Industries. We only will note that this is the more advanced model of Ofeq 1, which was launched in September 1988.

Shamir Comments

TA0304141290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1351 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Here is a communique issued by the prime minister on the launching of Ofeq 2, which I have just received fresh from the oven, so to speak, from the prime minister's media adviser:

The impressive achievement of the Ofeq 2 launch executed today by the State of Israel, Prime Minister Shamir says, once again places Israel in the scientific and technological forefront with other countries in the world. It reinforces our country's capability and potential, he says. Our strength and abilities depend on initiative, scientific capability, and the ability to execute missions as manifested in the launching of the second Israeli satellite. Mr. Shamir dispatched congratulations and a message of well done to the teams responsible for this achievement, and hailed the contribution of the scientific community and the technological industries led by the Israel Aircraft Industries, who all chipped in to bring honor to the State of Israel. So much for the prime minister's statement.

Space Agency Head Interviewed

TA0304145690 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Interview in studio with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, head of the Israel Space Agency, by Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] We have heard that some two hours ago, Ofeq 2, Israel's second satellite, was launched into space. We were informed the launch was successful. One of those who imparted the news was Professor Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the Israel Space Agency, who is here in the studio with us. Good evening, Prof. Ne'eman.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

[Dayan] Is it possible to establish at this stage that the satellite entered its orbit and the launch was successful?

[Ne'eman] Yes, it already has performed about one and a half orbits around the earth. Everything went as planned: First, there was Ofeq 1, after which we said we would launch Ofeq 2 within about one year. It has taken us 18 months to launch it.

[Dayan] Was it a natural sequel or an entirely different model?

[Ne'eman] No, no, it was a natural sequel. This satellite is similar to the first one.

[Dayan] In what ways is it more advanced?

[Ne'eman] Its makeup includes lessons learned from the first, such as its upgraded protection against temperature changes, for instance.

[Dayan] Was it introduced because of faults discovered in the first model?

[Ne'eman] No, we simply learned how to do things a little bit better. After we learned what the problems were, we introduced improvements. In this context, the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] made a very nice effort. I can also say improvements have been made in the gyroscope, and a more advanced computer was installed. It can be said this satellite is not deaf, so to speak. The last one could send signals, but could not receive ours. This satellite can receive our signals and report reception.

[Dayan] TIME magazine reported about a year ago that Ofeq 2 is equipped with a sophisticated electrooptical camera that will relay photographs of troop movements and missile batteries in the United States. [as heard]

[Ne'eman] This satellite has no cameras, no payload [last word in English], as they say in English. It carries no load charged with performing defined tasks. TIME said the same about our first satellite and probably will say the same about our third. I suggest we refrain from believing TIME on these matters.

This satellite will live as long as the former one did: about two months, perhaps somewhat more or less. It is not that we are incapable of maintaining a satellite in space for longer than two months, but doing so would be pointless since the satellite has no tasks and is carrying no functional load. We hope Ofeq 3 or perhaps Ofeq 4 indeed will carry a considerable scientific load. Two experiments now are being carried out—one by the Technion and the other by Tel Aviv University—that will be incorporated into either Ofeq 3 or 4. If we do launch Ofeq 4, we may want to leave it in space for some 10 years.

[Dayan] Do your remarks imply these satellites are not designed uniquely for meteorological purposes?

[Ne'eman] My remarks do not imply this, because the satellites are a response to scientific needs and help us to learn facts that will be implemented in our communications satellite. There has been talk about the Amos satellite, and the IAI and several companies affiliated with it are making progress on this project. There, too, the lessons learned from Ofeq will be implemented.

[Dayan] How soon can we expect Ofeq 3?

[Ne'eman] At about the tempo to which we have become accustomed.

[Dayan] Such as one year?

[Ne'eman] You said that. We will see. We will need sufficient time to introduce more improvements and more functions. As for the scientific satellite, we would like to launch it in 1992, which is International Space Year, as well as the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. We would like the State of Israel to mark that year with our scientific satellite.

[Dayan] Are you, like Minister Arens, unwilling to note a connection between the launching of Ofeq 2 and the recent reports about Iraq's nuclear potential?

[Ne'eman] Certainly. Like him, I see no connection between the two.

[Dayan] Was it planned for today?

[Ne'eman] We could not have planned Saddam Husayn's speech a year ago, when we decided on the approximate time of the launch.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, and good luck.

Official Communique Issued

TA0304153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Here is an official communique on the launching of Ofeq 2. The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] says the launch was successful. The new satellite weighs 160 kg and is identical in shape to its predecessor, Ofeq 1.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the objectives of the current experiment were to prove capability in two-way communication with the satellite, including receipt of commands from an earth control station and remote control. Additionally, operational capability and resistance to atmospheric conditions in the subsystems intended for the next Israeli satellites also are to be tested.

The dimensions of the new satellite, Ofeq 2, are: diameter of the lower base, 120 cm; diameter of the upper base, 70 cm; and height, 230 cm. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says the launching of Ofeq 2 is proof of Israel's technological superiority, but the timing of the launch is unrelated to Iraq's chemical capability.

Further on Technical Details

TA0404050490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Ofeq 2 has an elliptical orbit of between 210 and 1,500 km. Alan Ben-'Ami asked the coordinator of Israel's Space Agency, Professor 'Aqiva Bar-Nun, what the differences are between Ofeq 2 and the first satellite Israel launched into space 18 months ago.

[Begin recording] [Bar-Nun] A rather small difference if one looks at it globally, I would say. We, namely the Israeli Aircraft Industries, improved thermo protection, protection against cosmic rays, they use somewhat different gyroscopes to measure the angle and the rotation of the satellite, somewhat new computer with larger memory, new magnetometer—or improved at least. Another important feature is that whereas with Ofeq 1 we could only receive data from it, now we can also communicate with it, send to it signals. Not that it can do much with them, but at least we want to establish that we can talk to our satellite, as well as hear it.

[Ben-'Ami] Ofeq 1 was in space for something like four months. What's the life span, or the hoped for life span, of Ofeq 2?

[Bar-Nun] We expect it to be somewhat shorter, because at its closest point to the earth—I mean it goes between, say 210 km to about 2,000 km—and at the closest point it is lower than Ofeq 1, thereby the friction of the air—of the atmosphere—although it's rather dilute up there, still there is enough to slow it down and cause it to fall and burn earlier than Ofeq 1.

[Ben-'Ami] And after Ofeq 2, is Ofeq 3 already being planned?

[Bar-Nun] One has to plan things. We do plan a scientific satellite for 1992 on which we are supposed to put one telescope for X rays and one telescope for ultra-violet light, both of which are attenuated in the earth's atmosphere so we cannot observe any astrophysical objects from below. One has to go up there, and we are working on it now. [end recording]

Systems Said 'Fully Functional'

TA0404112890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] All of Ofeq 2's systems are fully functional, and Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] is very pleased. The satellite already has circled the earth 15 times. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Ofeq 2 completes a full orbit around earth every 90 minutes. The satellite is fully operational, and we are pleased, says Dr. Moshe Bar-Lev of IAI administration:

[Bar-Lev] Since its launch, it has passed over Israel approximately 15 times, although we received signals of only some of them, naturally, in the land station on IAI premises. The next time it is scheduled to pass Israel is in about 10 minutes. The satellite is about 10 minutes away from us, orbiting at a distance of approximately 3,000 km from us. So far, all the satellite's systems are operating as they should, and we are very pleased. Everything has gone better than we expected.

[Menashe] This means you receive signals from it.

[Bar-Lev] Certainly. Each time it passes over us, we contact it, and it responds. We shake hands, to use a popular phrase, each time it traverses Israel.

[Menashe] Dr. Bar-Lev, how long do you think Ofeq 2 will spend in space?

[Bar-Lev] At the time of the launch, the intention was to leave it in space somewhere between 40 and 60 days. We now must update the orbit data, but it seems to us this will be its life span.

[Menashe] Ofeq 1, launched in September 1988, spent four months in space—contrary to your expectations.

[Bar-Lev] So maybe this is an opportunity to correct the error. Our premise at that time, as we stated, was that the active life span of Ofeq 1 was planned to be one month. Its longevity in orbit was to have been—and actually was—four months. One does not make mistakes in such instances.

What happened then was we took the worst scenario into consideration: What happens if it should reach a state of electrical distress, in which case it will cease to function, but will continue to encircle the earth in its orbit. The minimum life span at that time was one month.

[Menashe] So Ofeq 2 is not in distress.

[Bar-Lev] Ofeq 2 is not in distress; its life span is slightly shorter than that of Ofeq 1, but this is intentional. [end recording]

Shows 'Israel's Long Arm'

TA0404101090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Apr 90 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Still Not Really a Military Satellite"]

[Text] Even if the date for the launch of Israel's second satellite, Ofeq 2, was decided on some time ago and was in no way connected to the Iraqi president's threatening declarations that his country has chemical warfare and that he would set half of Israel on fire if it attacks Iraq's chemical plants, it now will be viewed as part of the Middle East arms race, which includes long-range surface-to-surface missiles carrying chemical and other warheads.

Until Ofeq 2's launch via a multi-stage rocket, international attention centered on the Iraqi president's threat to use chemical weapons against a civilian population, which was widely denounced. The launch into space of Israel's new satellite has extended the issue of the Middle East missile arms race and Israel's immediate response to Saddam Husayn's threat.

The rocket launch and the introduction of a new missile into orbit are usually not done from one day to the next. The action involves many complicated moves, including steps aimed at preventing surveillance of Israeli actions. The decision to launch Ofeq 2 was made known to some of the Cabinet ministers some two weeks ago. There are those who claim the launch should have been delayed for several more weeks to avoid any possible link with the Iraqi president's declaration.

Whatever the case, Israel once again has shown its technological and scientific capability. It also is an unequivocal reminder to Iraq and many other countries about Israel's long arm: but it also undoubtedly will spur on the other side to try to make sure it does not lag too much behind Israel. The Arabs, led by Iraq, will search for arms systems and ways to balance the Israeli deterrence and to try to confront it with an Arab deterrence.

Israel no longer is the sole player in the Middle East missile game. For years it has been striding ahead of all others, but some Arab countries, such as Iraq, are not ready to lag behind with folded arms. It should be assumed Israel still will have the edge for a long time, but it is a mistake to think missiles and satellites are the answer to all military and strategic problems that crop up in the Israel-Arab conflict.

Did Ofeq 2 shove Israel way ahead in the development of a military satellite which can provide photographs and transmit them in real time? Ofeq 2 can be guided from its land station. That is another—albeit small—step forward. But until the Israeli satellite carries a suitable camera, which has to be developed in Israel, it will not really be a military satellite.

Further on Saddam Speech, Chemical Ability

'Prepared' for Chemical Attack

TA0304045090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] This was the reaction of Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres when reporter David Essing asked him about Saddam Husayn's threats:

[begin recording] [Peres] We'll take it seriously, but we are in a position to defend our country.

[Essing] What options does Israel have?

[Peres] The best option we have is to bring peace to the Middle East, and I think that the real answer to all the military equipment and threats is a political answer, not a military one.

[Essing] Has Iraq's threat raised tension, do you think, in the Middle East from Israel's point of view?

[Peres] Sure, the size of the Iraqi Army, the past history of the Iraqi country creates worries. Yet we have to look—I repeat again and time and again—for peaceful ways how to reduce the tension and how to give hope to the people of the region.

I think Israel is prepared and ready. I don't think we should lose our nerves. There is no reason to do so. Also, I don't want to go into an exchange of fire, you know, even a verbal fire. Rhetorics which are used unnecessarily are not serving any real purpose.

[Essing] Has the Middle East now entered a new balance of terror with the Iraqi threats and the Iraqi development of weapons of mass destruction?

[Peres] Sir, we have enough of it, we don't need new ones. [end recording]

U.S. Stands Criticized

TA0304122590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Apr 90

[By Shalom Qital]

[Text] What is the United States saying? The State Department spokeswoman in Washington said last night that if the remarks attributed to the Iraqi president are correct—he did say them publicly—then they arouse disgust, they incite and are irresponsible. The spokeswoman, however, made sure to strike a balance and attacked the Israeli Government's decisions to set up five new settlements. 'Oded Ben-'ami reports from Washington:

The U.S. Administration often reacts to events and remarks linked to the Middle East after a thorough examination of the facts. Administration spokesmen try not to make mistakes, but last night, during the daily U.S. State Department briefing, it was easy to discern different standards in the administration's attitude to different events. For instance, right at the start of the briefing, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler was asked whether she had seen the reports on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's remarks about using chemical weapons against Israel. Yes, I saw the reports, the spokeswoman said, and if they are correct, then they arouse disgust, they are inciting and irresponsible—that is, if they are correct. The spokeswoman showed a great deal of caution, as though it was not the Iraqi president himself who was responsible for the disclosures.

Later in the briefing, she was asked about reports the Israeli Government had decided to set up five new settlements. The remarks were attributed to Yosi Ahime'ir, head of the Prime Minister's Office, in an interview with AP. The spokeswoman immediately took out a piece of paper and read out the following prepared answer: Secretary Baker made clear in his testimony to Congress several weeks ago the administration's stand that settlements are an obstacle to peace. Additional settlements will not help the peace process. What is disturbing, she added, is that the Israeli Government, which is incapable of making progess in the peace process, is capable of making progess on the settlement issue. This is what Mrs. Tutwiler had to say, without further reservations or qualifications.

Toward the end of the briefing, the spokeswoman was given a piece of paper which said there is no Israeli Government decision on new settlements, but for some reason she did not go to the trouble of correcting her response.

Should Take Saddam 'Seriously'

TA0304112990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "One Ought To Believe Him"]

[Text] One ought to believe Saddam Husayn and take him seriously. He is no al-Qadhdhafi. His speech yesterday leaves no doubt that in a future conflagration with Israel, Iraq will try to attack Israel's civilian population with toxic gases.

To that end, the Iraqi Army will resort to its long-range surface-to-surface missiles and modern jet fighters. When it comes to acquiring missiles and chemical weapons, as well as when it comes to using them, Husayn has more than made good on all his threats. Over the last few years not only Iran, but also Israel and the United States, occasionally were surprised by the development pace and achievements of Iraq's military industries, which are based on foreign experts and on foreign knowhow that either was bought or smuggled into the country.

Husayn also created a surprise yesterday when he revealed he has binary gas; namely, a lethal gas made up of "innocent" materials which are stored separately. The fusion of these materials into a lethal gas is done in the bomb or the missile warhead after they have been launched toward their targets.

The effect of this gas on its casualties is similar to the known effects of nerve and mustard gas. The difference is the binary system enables the storage of large quantities of chemical warfare materials without risking their "getting old" or endangering the people handling them. So far, only the United States, and apparently also the Soviet Union, have been known to have the binary capability to produce war gas. Just like Husayn said in his speech, Iraq would now seem to be placing itself on the same level as the superpowers in the sphere of chemical warfare. What distinguishes him from the

superpowers is that while they are divesting their chemical weapons and trying to ban their use through international legislation, Husayn continues to acquire these weapons with the intention of using.

This is the bad news.

The good news is Iraq does not yet possess the capability to manufacture a nuclear bomb. The Iraqi ruler admitted as much, and we also ought to believe him about this. He also was right in his argument that the British and the Americans had overblown the affair of the smuggled triggers in the media. The capacitors the Iraqis tried to smuggle out of the United States via London did not contain the krytrons, the tiny devices which turn these capacitors into detonators of nuclear bombs. The Iraqis only have been talking about buying them but, according to sources in Washington, they have not yet bought them.

Knowing that, Saddam Husayn apparently fears the brouhaha over the capacitors was intentionally blown out of proportion by the media to create an international climate of hostility toward his country, a climate which may pave the way for an Israeli preeemptive strike on Iraq's missile sites and arms industries.

This may have been the reason for his high-strung speech and the unbridled threats contained in it. Just like any other tyrant, Saddam Husayn is paranoid and has good reason to feel persecuted. He more than once in the past has threatened to attack Israel if the latter strikes at his missiles and arms industries, but he never before has been so explicit.

At the moment, the Israeli response to Husayn's threats is based on two-tiered deterrence: a threat to carry out a preemptive strike or a "counter-strike" in the event Iraq uses its chemical weapons, and "passive defense", as well as improving and drilling civilian defense measures. There are means to intercept these binary missiles, such as the U.S.-made Patriot missiles, but Israel has not yet bought or leased them. Husayn's speech may not only advance the negotiations between the United States and Israel on the purchase of these sophisticated antiaircraft missiles, but also accelerate the joint development of the Arrow missile by Israel and the United States.

The Iraqi ruler's speech will no doubt help the pro-Israeli lobby on Capitol Hill to fight off the administration's intentions to cut aid to Israel.

Saddam's Words 'Irresponsible'

JN0304215090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 3 Apr 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, the mildest thing we can say about Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statements, which are full of flagrant threats and arrogance, is that they are irresponsible. We do not want to discuss the psychological factors or the real motives behind the Iraqi president's statements. It may not be necessary to recall the fact Israel always has been eager to take every precaution and measure to defend itself and the safety of its citizens; and that Israel has the technological and practical capabilities of dealing a much stronger blow to anyone who thinks about launching a surprise attack against Israel or makes the mistake of being tempted into action as a result of possessing this weapon or that arsenal.

We can describe the statements of the Iraq president—who boasted last night he can burn and destroy half of Israel and that he possesses destructive chemical weapons he thinks are possessed only by the two superpowers—as a human tragedy and also a tragedy for the Iraqi people themselves. Any leader having ideas such as those those announced yesterday by the Iraqi president would constitute an implict danger to his own people. History is full of tragic examples and disasters that have befallen nations as a result of the behavior of rulers who believed in extremism and destructive negativism, who made the mistake of being tempted into demonstrating power and arrogance, or who fell into the abyss of megalomania.

In fact, our region's peoples should feel anxious about this. But those that should be most anxious are the sons of the Iraqi people themselves, especially since they are still treating the wounds they received as a result of eight years of war between Iraq and Iran.

Arens Contacting Ambassadors

TA0404102790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is continuing to meet today with ambassadors of foreign countries in an effort to forge a united international reaction to the Iraqi president's threats. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Minister Arens believes the international community also should notice PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's remarks that Jerusalem may be attacked with the Iraqi missiles.

A message to that effect also will be transmitted to the Soviet Union via our representative in Moscow, Arye Levin.

Labor Government Continues To Be Formed

Majority for Rabin as Premier

TA0304084390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] According to a telephone poll conducted by Teleseqer during the second half of last week, most of the public favor Yitzhaq Rabin for the post of prime minister.

The public opinion poll was commissioned by the advertising firm Bing Lineal. From 27 to 29 March Teleseqer

conducted telephone interviews with 506 households that constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population over the age of 18.

The question polled was: In your opinion, which of the following men is best suited to be prime minister at present—Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, David Levi, or Yitzhaq Rabin? The respondents were also given the choice of answering "others" or "do not know." Their responses were separated into four categories: the total sample, Alignment supporters, Likud supporters, and floating votes. Here is the breakdown of the answers quoted in percentage points:

	Total sample	Alignment voters	Likud voters	Floating votes
Yitzhaq Rabin	37.0	41.6	27.7	37.5
Yitzhaq Shamir	16.8	0.0	48.9	10.6
Shim'on Peres	18.8	50.4	2.1	9.6
David Levi	2.2	1.8	4.3	1.9
Others	5.7	1.8	9.6	5.8
Do Not Know	19.5	4.4	7.4	34.6

Likud May Ask Rabin To Join

TA0304105990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 10

[By political correspondents Sara Honig and Mikhal Yudelman and by Hayim Shapirko]

[Text] The Likud may invite Yitzhaq Rabin to join a coalition if Labour fails to put a government together, THE JERUSALEM POST was told last night.

Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres is said to be seriously considering going to the president on Thursday to ask for an extension of his mandate to form a government, according to senior sources.

Labour's leaders, who yesterday postponed a decision on whether to present a narrow government or wait for another party to join the coaltion, did little yesterday but watch the action in the Likud court, where efforts were being made to prevent defections from its block of 60 and to begin work towards forming a coaliton.

Some in the Likud believe the real impediment to the recent national unity coalition was Labour Party chairman Shim'on Peres, "his personal ambitions and those of his close entourage." Rabin is believed to share this assessment and according to many in the Likud, "there is more than a possibility of cooperation with Rabin."

But the main question is whether Rabin can bring the rest or most of Labour with him into a national unity coalition without Peres. It is possible that Rabin will replace Peres if the latter fails to form a coalition.

Rabin was described by a Labour source as "a pressure cooker about to explode." He feels Peres and his close group of advisers have "recklessly misled the party about their ability to form a government."

Time is running out for Peres, who has until Thursday to present a government before his current mandate runs out, but the Labour negotiating team repeatedly postponed a meeting that was scheduled for yesterday, awaiting results of the Shamir-Moda'i tete-a-tete. But that meeting—which Labour sources say might make the difference between a narrow and a broad Labour government—has been delayed until this morning.

Shamir met yesterday with all the MKs [Knesset members] of his block who are reported to be potential "defectors" to Labour.

His attempts to ensure the support of the five breakaway Liberals yesterday aroused anger and resentment not only among the Liberals who stayed loyal to the Likud, but among David Levi's faction. If Moda'i's demands for certain portfolios and Knesset seats are met by Shamir, Levi's camp might demand an equivalent number of portfolios and benefits, Likud sources said.

Hayim Shapiro adds:

Labour and the Likud will probably form a new unity government, possibly without Shim'on Peres as head of Labour, Degel Hatora MK Avraham Ravitz said yesterday.

Ravitz, who was speaking at a background meeting for foreign correspondents, said that he did not know how long talks between the two parties had been goirg on, but that he had learned of the discussions on Sunday.

Referring to the criticism by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menahem Schneerson, of Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, the spiritual leader of Degel Hatora, Ravitz said that "it is easy to sit in Brooklyn" and say that all Jews were the same and one should not criticize any of them. Degel Hatora, however, had been faced with the need to choose between two diverging camps in Israeli society, Ravitz said.

Agudat Yisra'el for Alignment

TA0304131390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has decided to support a government headed by the Alignment. Agudat Yisra'el's Council of Torah Sages endorsed the accord with the Alignment and instructed it be signed. Knesset Member [MK] Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman told our correspondent Qami Baratz that, according to the resolution, Agudat Yisra'el will vote for the cabinet Peres will present to the Knesset, but that this announcement does not signify Agudat Yisra'el is joining a government

headed by Shim'on Peres. MK Feldman said the agreement includes clauses relating to maintaining the Jewish character of the people and State of Israel, allowing the ultraorthodox educational system to enjoy egalitarian terms with the secular network, and pursuing the political initiative as presented by the national unity government.

The agreement between Agudat Yisra'el and the Alignment is expected to be signed now in Mr. Peres' office in the Finance Ministry building in Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Schach has just sent a message to Shim'on Peres' office, stating as follows: I have nothing personal against Mr. Peres. Everything that has been published is nothing but libel and lies. I hold Mr. Peres in the same esteem and friendship as in the past, and I think he is far better than others. These were the words of the Degel Hatora leader as reported by our correspondent, Shlomo Raz.

Support for Peres Noted

TA0304133290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1303 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Discussion between Shalom Qital in the studio and political correspondent Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Arye Golan now is at the Prime Minister's Office. What is happening, Arye?

[Golan] What is happening is we have received a most serious confirmation from the three Liberal Knesset members [MK's] of the Moda'i group—and one can wonder at this point whether they remain a group at all—Pesah Grupper, Yosi Goldberg, and Pinhas Goldstein. They are at the Prime Minister's Office now, and we received their confirmation for what you earlier termed rumors to the effect Minister Moda'i and MK Avraham Sharir are joining Shim'on Peres. As things look at the moment, Shim'on Peres has 62 votes, which means he can present a government that will enjoy the confidence of the house.

To repeat: We have received the confirmation of the participants of the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office as stated before. Pesah Grupper, Goldberg, and Goldstein are still trying to change the facts, to win Moda'i and Sharir back for the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir—apparently with no success, for the time being. [passage omitted]

Moda'i Promised Treasury

TA0304135390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Shim'on Peres' chances to form a government led by him have improved. This afternoon, a coalition agreement with Agudat Yisra'el was signed at his Tel Aviv office. The agreement stipulates that an affirmative reply will be given to Secretary Baker and that Aguda will enjoy freedom of vote on political matters. The finance and justice ministers will be appointed upon consultation with Agudat Yisra'el. Electoral reform will be effected with its approval, and Peres' government will take action to enforce the abortion law. It was further promised the status of ultraorthodox education will be made equal to secular education.

The Alignment negotiating team meanwhile will convene tonight in connection with rumors saying the Minister Moda'i and Knesset Member Sharir team will attempt to promote an agreement with them. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports there seems to be a willingness to promise Moda'i the treasury portfolio and put him in charge of aliyah and immigrant absorption issues. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz adds the five breakaway Liberals will meet at 1600. Sharir and Moda'i seem to prefer not to respond to the prime minister's invitation to meet in his office this afternoon.

5-Member Group's Unity Confirmed

TA0304181590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Interview with Knesset Member, MK, Pinhas Goldstein by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel; place not given—live]

[Text] [Deqel] The meeting between the five breakaway Liberals, headed by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, ended exactly five minutes ago at the economics and planning minister's office in Tel Aviv. Moda'i so far has observed a vow of silence, as has MK Avraham Sharir. According to the information we have, they will not issue announcements to the press.

What we do know, however, is that the three other MKs—Pinhas Goldstein, Yosi Goldberg, and Pesah Grupper—are making their way to Jerusalem to pursue the negotiations.

MK Goldstein, with whom will you negotiate this evening?

[Goldstein] First of all, let me say that our name is the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel, not the secessionists. We probably will go to continue talks with the same team with which we conferred this afternoon.

[Deqel] Meaning the prime minister?

[Goldstein] I do not know if the prime minister will be there, but I presume the team, or a part thereof, will conduct the next talks with us.

[Deqel] You conducted a meeting now with both Avraham Sharir and Yitzhaq Moda'i. Would it be correct to say that as of now, both of them remain within the Likud bloc, or do you have any information indicating they might join a government headed by Peres as well?

[Goldstein] I entered the meeting with Economics and Planning Minister Mr. Yitzhaq Moda'i as a five-member group, and I leave it as a member of a five-man group.

[Deqel] Meaning?

[Goldstein] That we are five.

[Deqel] In the Likud bloc?

[Goldstein] We are five MK's who are members of the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel. I think this is a full and clear answer to your question.

[Deqel] Then let me ask you for a still clearer answer: Are Moda'i and Sharir in the Likud bloc?

[Goldstein] If we are part of the Likud bloc—and we have said as much—then Yitzhaq Moda'i and Avraham Sharir are part of our group. The group has not broken up. We still are a five-member complement.

[Deqel] Nonetheless, when you were asked by reporters in English a little earlier, you said that this is true for today, whereas you could not tell what would happen tomorrow.

[Goldstein] But you yourself said at the beginning of the interview that one can never tell in politics, and I only followed up on your remarks. We have truly remained as we were when we entered the room, however,—five MK's.

[Deqel] Is it true Minister Moda'i demands the Likud provide bank guarantees tonight to obligate the Likud to follow through on promises it has made?

[Goldstein] I think whatever anyone said or leaked is totally incorrect. We are not dealing with that plan at all. We are going to talk about things which we discussed with the prime minister, and I would not like to go into detail in the media. This is not the place.

[Deqel] Will the issue of the guarantees be on the agenda tonight?

[Goldstein] Among other things.

[Deqel] Mr. Goldstein, do you have any idea of what gives Shim'on Peres his 61st vote? This evening he said: We have passed the 60-MK mark. Where does he get the 61st?

[Goldstein] I would ask you to redirect the question to Mr. Shim'on Peres. I have no answer to this question.

[Deqel] Do you have any doubt or do you suspect perhaps one of the five is included in Peres' tally of 61, or can I hear a definite denial from you?

[Goldstein] We are five MK's, and I do not know that any one of us is going to take action.

[Deqel] Thank you very much, MK Pinhas Goldstein, as you proceed en route to Jerusalem.

[Goldstein] Thank you and good evening.

Knesset Approval Set for 5 Apr

TA0304164190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1630 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] We have just received a report from the News Agency of the Associated Israel Press, Ltd., saying the following: The Labor Party will convene the Knesset for an extraordinary session on 5 April for the approval of the new coalition formed by Knesset ember Shim'on Peres, and for the presentation of his new governmen.. These confident remarks were made by MK Moshe Shahal at the second national conference of the Israel Teachers Confederation.

Peres Confirms Majority

TA0304172490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Here is an excerpt of what Knesset member Shim'on Peres said a short while ago. He said more than 60 MK's would support a government under his leadership. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach heard him:

[Begin recording] [Neubach] Will you have a government?

[Peres] Yes.

[Neubach] When?

[Peres] When the time comes, I will make the appropriate announcement. I said we already have more than 60.

[Neubach] [Question indistinct]

[Peres] No, I did not say that. I said Agudat Yisra'el consented to our forming a government even with a majority of 61 MK's. [end recording]

These were Peres' remarks at the Histadrut convention. [passage omitted]

As for Shinuy, it will not join a government that enjoys a majority founded on desertions and renegade MK's who deserted for the sake of making gains, nor one based on capitulation to the demands of the ultraorthodox. As for supporting the government from the outside, Shinuy will consider its position after meeting tomorrow with the Alignment's negotiating team. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 3 April adds "senior Alignment sources have told our political correspondent the issue of the extraordinary Knesset session this week will be discussed by the Alignment's negotiating team, but that no decision has been made as of yet; the Knesset speaker has not been asked to convene a session on Thursday."]

King Husayn on U.S. Jerusalem Resolution, Iraq

JN0304163290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, 3 Apr (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council, has declared that the U.S. Senate's resolution considering Jerusalem a unified city and the capital of Israel is counterproductive in terms of the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. Rather, the resolution shakes hopes for reaching peace, his majesty said.

In an exclusive statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, his majesty said: The resolution was a surprise to us, not only in its wording and timing, but also for contradicting the constant U.S. position since 1967, that considers east Jerusalem an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories.

His majesty added: The justifications on which the U.S. Senate resolution was based, and which make up the introduction to its resolution, constitute nothing more than a collection of fallacies that do not need to be refuted. These fallacies are among many Israeli fallacies that have been rejected by successive U.S. Administrations since 1967. Israel's declaration that Jerusalem is a unified city and its capital violates international legitimacy and contradicts UN Security Council Resolution 242. In addition, it constitutes a clear violation of international law, which prohibits the occupation or annexation by force of any part of the land belonging to others.

The second fallacy of the U.S. Senate's resolution—that all Israeli citizens of all religions were prevented from visiting the holy places in east Jerusalem during the period 1948-67—is a falsification of fact, as the Christian inhabitants of Israel were allowed to visit the holy places and the process was organized by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

His majesty added: As for preventing all Israeli Jews from visiting their holy places, that was due to Israel's objection to the implementation of one of the articles of the armistice agreements of 1949, stipulating that Jordanian Christians be allowed to visit their holy places in Nazareth in return for allowing the Jews to visit Arab Jerusalem. As Israel refused to implement this part, Jordan refused to implement the part concerning it.

The third fallacy is the contention that Jerusalem has been a unified city run by Israel since 1967, in which all people of all religions have been allowed to visit their holy places. This is an extremely serious fallacy and is based on considering what is imposed by force to be legitimate. The U.S. Senate's resolution, therefore, is a compilation of these fallacies and contradicts the position adopted by successive U.S. Administrations on east Jerusalem since 1967, as well as international law. This cannot serve peace, especially since it deals with Jerusalem, which is considered one of the most delicate issues.

On the hostile campaign against fraternal Iraq, his majesty told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY: This is an organized campaign whose bases and objectives are known to us. The campaign is an expression of an old hostility to our Arab nation and an aggressive desire to prevent it from making progress and building up its strength. His majesty said that Iraq's victory in defending its national soil and the Arab order and its ceaseless endeavors for peace, progress, and development have stirred up many vendettas on the part of the enemies of our nation, leading them to contrive this campaign against Iraq. In some instances, the campaign uses groundless and speculative pretexts, and in others it makes up news and stories that are used by the parties to the campaign against fraternal Iraq, even when the falsity of these pretexts is exposed and revealed. President Saddam Husayn, therefore, has not threatened anybody, but has asserted his ability to face any premeditated aggression. President Saddam also emphasized Iraq's legitimate right to defend itself in the face of any act of aggression against its existence and progress—and Iraq did so when the aggressive campaign against it intensified.

His majesty added: Israel is a nuclear state that refuses to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Iraq, on the other hand, was eager to sign and endorse this treaty, which means that Iraq has opened its installations for inspection by an international body. We notice, however, that the campaign centers on Iraq instead of Israel, the only nuclear state in the Middle East, which quite simply means that some premeditated aggressive intentions are behind this campaign.

His majesty concluded his statement by saying that the unjust campaign launched against fraternal Iraq makes it incumbent on us, the Arabs, to unite our ranks, and stand without delay to secure the victory of our Arabism, protect our Arab homeland, and assert our natural right to scientific progress and technology.

Saddam Addresses 'Unjust Campaign' Against Iraq

JN0304115290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Language That They Understand"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has chosen the right time to address the parties to the unjust campaign targeting Iraq, the greater homeland, the Iraqis, and their glorious nation. After this campaign reached a dangerous peak and the enemies deluded themselves that the objective of harming Iraq, Iraqi national soil, and the nation had been achieved, President Saddam Husayn's speech yesterday emphasizing Iraq's capabilities and independent decisionmaking came as a highly self-confident response to the challenge and intimidation attempts. The speech was a response to the conspiracy aimed at encircling Iraq and tarnishing its image. It projected Iraq as a great power that cherishes sublime ethics and that is also capable of bringing double retaliation on all those who

attempt to approach its fireplace, play with fire, and undermine its great pride and well-guarded dignity.

President Saddam addressed the Zionist entity and its allies, the remnants of the old and neo-colonialist, using the language that they understand—the language they thought Iraq did not know how to use. They thought that after eight years of war in heroic defense of its national soil and nation, Iraq would be worn out, vulnerable, ready to bow, an object of blackmail, and afraid of others. They have not realized that Iraq emerged victorious from the war. They have also failed to realize that the convoys of martyrs who fell on the battlefield helped Iraq undergo a process of rebirth, rendering it a country eager to achieve peace, safeguard its pride, protect human rights, and also to defend its independent decisionmaking. Besides, millions of Iraqis are still ready to repulse aggression, inflict defeat on the enemies, and defeat the cunning of resentful parties.

The speech delivered by the Iraqi president yesterday was a true reflection of the essence of this nation. The disdain in which this nation has been held made the Zionist entity and its old and neo-colonialist allies believe that they can crush the nation's willpower, maintain and perpetuate its backwardness, and prevent it from building the nucleus for the pan-Arab intrinsic power, which would help the Arabs extricate their rights through blood and martyrdom and extend the hand of peace and love to all clean hands that are not plagued by an expansionist and colonialist mentality, and which do not harbor malice toward everything that is Arab in our dear homeland. Saddam Husayn's voice yesterday expressed the sentiments of our nation. It was the voice of its willpower, pride, and dignity. It is the voice which must be carefully heeded by the Zionist entity and its allies so that they might reconsider their calculations. Iraq is not afraid of loud noises. The unjust campaigns will not frighten Iraq and the capitals obsessed by old illusions will fail to blackmail it. Arab Iraq will remain strong with its own intrinsic powers and also with the potentials of its nation. It is capable of making large contributions to the building of a humane, just, and generous community. At the same time, Iraq is capable of chopping off the fingers of those who play with fire as well as the fingers of those who think that this homeland is open to all of its enemies.

May God help Iraq become more powerful with its leadership, armed forces, and people. And may God help the nation attain added strength with its victorious and powerful Iraq. We would like to address a note of thanks to President Saddam Husayn whose voice was that of millions of Arabs—the voice that was heard by all ears, and particularly the ears full of arrogance, conceit, and the ugliest forms of racism.

Amman Radio Views U.S. Position on Satellite

JN0404081190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The United States has congratulated Israel on its successful launching of a satellite which it claimed was for peaceful purposes, and at the same time reiterated its opposition to the proliferation of missiles. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States welcomes this Israeli scientific and technological advancement.

However, various sources in Israel had said the Israeli satellite, Ofeq-2, was launched for military purposes and is on a mission to spy on the Arab countries.

Conscript Reported Missing in Jordan Valley

JN0204124490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] A responsible source has stated that at 1230 on 1 April, a conscript recently drafted for service in the Armed Forces, failed to show up at his post in the frontline units in the al-Karamah area in the central Jordan Valley, along with his personal weapon.

It will be recalled that Israeli radio announced that the Israeli forces had captured a Jordanian soldier with his weapon in the al-'Awja' area.

'Awn Calls for Israel To Take Part in Settlement

NC0404072090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn, commander of the al-Yarzah gangs, has called for Israel to take part in the Lebanese settlement on an equal footing with Syria. In an interview with several foreign news agencies, 'Awn said that any solution to the Lebanese crisis should be trilateral—that is, conducted with the participation of Lebanon, Syria and Israel, for the latter has a legal status [tatamata'u bi wad'in qanuni] concerning Lebanon, as he put it. 'Awn expressed his eagerness to live in peace with neighbors, including Israel.

Responding to reports about Ja'ja's intention to hand over his positions to the Lebanese Army commanded by General Emil Lahhud, 'Awn said: If Ja'ja' hands over the Army barracks to the units of General Lahhud, he will merely be handing these barracks to the military institution which is still the one institution protecting citizens. Such a move should facilitate the solution, for the Army will have replaced the militias.

'Awn voiced his astonishment at what he called the Ja'ja'-al- Hirawi pact, for al-Hirawi has accepted an agreement that seeks to dissolve the militias while Ja'ja' is a commander of one of these militias.

Ja'ja' Answers 'Awn's 3 Apr Remarks

NC0304192190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Answering the General 'Awn's allegations today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has given an interview to AL-DIYAR. In the interview, which will be published tomorrow, Dr. Ja'Ja' said:

[Begin recording] He is telling me the reason for this war? He started this war. He is asking me the reason for this war? He started this war. I do not understand why he is surprised by our stand toward the legal authority or the al-Ta'if accord. This was our stand from the beginning. From the beginning we said the al- Tai'f accord has positive points and negative points, that the accord is subject for discussion, and that it will be discussed again within a constitutional framework. What am I saying now? I am saying the same thing. I do not know why he is surprised.

I told Gen. 'Awn things that were ten times as harsh as this in our private meetings. On the information level, I used to say that there are good points and bad points. I told him personally more than this. Why is he surprised?

Concerning the legal authority, when Rene Mu'awwad, may God have mercy on his soul, was elected president of the republic, we tried to convince him for one entire day to recognize Mu'awwad as president. We told him he could still oppose the al-Ta'if accord within constitutional and legal frameworks. He did not accept. We told him our view. I told him my view. I told him: We should recognize the legal authority because whatever we do and wherever we go and turn, we will achieve no result, and we will lose all international and Arab support and all capabilities. Consequently, we will lose and others who will adhere to the legal authority will benefit from it and exploit it.

If there is a person who really knows most about our stand, it is Gen. 'Awn. I do not understand why he is surprised. What makes him surprised is his private world and his pleasant character. Even if the country suffered at his hands, the general is still a pleasant person. Therefore, the general's surprise is tolerated, like most of his statements are tolerated. I hope if he writes poetry or plays, some people who like poetry and plays will be entertained. But for him to entertain himself with poetry and plays while the destiny of the country is in hands is a catastrophe, a catastrophe. This is a crime in the full sense of the word. [end recording]

Asked about the protection of the Lebanese Forces, of which Gen. 'Awn has spoken, Dr. Ja'ja' said:

[Begin recording]: Before Gen. 'Awn protects the Lebanese Forces, let him protect himself. I do not say what else he should protect. When did Gen. 'Awn ever protect us? The real army—not the group with 'Awn—really protected the whole country. This army still has a future and will protect the whole country. As for Michel 'Awn, his group, some small partisans, and some mercenaries, who did what all the princes of war and the militias did not do—when did they protect us? Many thanks to them. Tell him: We do not want this protection. Perhaps he can protect himself and his group and see what he can do for them. [end recording]

Further on Ja'ja' Interview

NC0404092390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has responded to General 'Awn's latest campaign against the Lebanese Forces that contained various new and old allegations. Ja'ja' stressed the need to end the state of fragmentation and noted that no party accepts 'Awn as a negotiator.

In an interview published in AL-DIYAR today, Ja'ja' said the silence about 'Awn's acts is a crime and asked: For how long will we remain silent about the country's destruction and deterioration in order to please Gen. 'Awn?

He said the words synonymous with the general are failure, death, and destruction. He noted that 'Awn commits his acts under the slogan of patriotism, liberation, sovereignty, ethics, and building the state. Ja'ja' pointed out that 'Awn could not preserve what has remained of the state and has made the public pay dearly for his wars. He said: Students have spent two years without schools because of 'Awn's liberation war, the

war of unifying the rifle, and the demonstrations. This is an unforgivable crime. I am not interested in reaching the point of return or no return with Gen. 'Awn. Instead, what concerns me is that the Christian society not reach the point of no return. He warned that if the society continues on this path, it is inevitably heading for the point of no return.

Ja'ja' was asked about the contacts with President al-Hirawi to hand al-Ashrafiyah, Kasrawan, and Jubayl over to Gen. Emile Lahhud's command. He replied: In practicality, there are plenty of consultations going on. What is important is that I am no longer able to remain silent about the current situation while I see the citizens suffering at the crossing points and living under sniper and shellfire or suffering from starvation. The question is: For how long? There is no life, no economy, and no electricity. What are we waiting for? We will not accept the continuing likelihood of slaughter, maneuvers, revilement, and being a commodity for trade. He asserted that all necessary measures will be taken to do away with the anomalous situation, and he urged all officials to bear their responsibilities.

Commenting on 'Awn's statement that Dr. Ja'ja' cannot be part of the solution, Ja'ja' said: The future, or rather the very near future, will show who will be part of the solution and who will not be either part of the solution nor part of reality and facts. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, he said: We reject outright the principle of abolishing the Lebanese Forces. However, we are ready to disband the Lebanese Forces when all militias are disbanded within the framework of a general national plan for a comprehensive solution. He emphasized that Gen. 'Awn launched a crusade against the Lebanese Forces to abolish them and to enhance his personal influence. He stressed that hopes for establishing a state with President Ilyas al-Hirawi are much greater than with 'Awn.

'Awn's Reaction Noted

NC0304130890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 APR 90

[Text] A sharp contest of open maneuvering has emerged between General 'Awn and Dr. Samir Ja'ja' over the possibility of accepting the al-Ta'if agreement. In a radio interview Ja'ja' said that any solution to the Lebanese crisis begins with the recognition of President al-Hirawi's authority. He pointed out that a solution must be approached through the [al-Ta'if] peace agreement which was supervised by the Arab states.

Parliamentary sources described the Lebanese Forces command's positive proposals as nothing more than a trial balloon to improve its image and recover much needed popularity. The sources added that the positive attitude of the Lebanese Forces command vis-a-vis the legitimate government are not actually accompanied by practical steps facilitating the task of this government.

It is worthwhile mentioning that Ja'ja' has often stated that the al-Ta'if agreement has some good points, but that negotiations should be held on other points.

Gen. 'Awn also granted an interview to AL-DIYAR which is tantamount to a reply to Ja'ja''s stand. 'Awn says: Ja'ja' could have said that he was for or against the al-Ta'if agreement. He could have said this without the need for a battle. Therefore, the step he has taken now comes too late and nobody will believe him.

As part of his hesitant stands and attempts to outbid Ja'ja' in supporting the al-Ta'if agreement, 'Awn admitted in his interview that he had sent letters to the Arab tripartite committee's member states and said these letters seek to open a serious dialogue for public discussion of al-Ta'if. It is recalled that these letters represent a political retreat in 'Awn's stand on the al-Ta'if agreement which he said seeks to save Lebanon.

In an another attempt to justify his recent war, 'Awn said that Dr. Ja'ja' is the one who waged the war and that he is the cause of the inter-Christian disagreement and the inter-Lebanese disagreement. In his interview with AL-DIYAR, 'Awn said that it was the B'abda legitimacy and the Army which had protected Ja'ja'.

Lebanese Forces Call Meeting on Ja'ja' Remarks

NC0304160590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The so-called 31 January group [mamjmu'at wahid wa thalathin kanun al-thani] of the Lebanese Forces has called on the members of the Lebanese Forces Command Council to meet and define their position on Samir Ja'ja''s acceptance of the al-Ta'if agreement. The group called on the Lebanese Forces officials, departments, and personnel to take a stand on Ja'ja''s acceptance of al-Ta'if.

National Liberals Withdraw From Lebanese Forces

NC0304160390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The National Liberal Party's Higher Council [NLPHC] announced its withdrawal from the Lebanese Forces Command Council. The NLPHC issued a statement saying that Ja'ja' has adopted a clear political stand in favor of a plan that the people have rejected. Thus, he has turned his back on the principles of resistance on which the Lebanese Forces have been established, principles which the National Liberal Party helped formulate and to which it remains committed.

The NLPHC statement accuses Ja'ja' of seeking personal gains at the expense of what the statement described as the Lebanese Forces community.

Egyptian Paper Interviews Speaker Al-Husayni

NC0304113290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0737 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has expressed the hope that Egypt will continue to support the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis. He said: We must benefit from the new phase of Arab solidarity and capitalize on it to ride out this crisis.

In an interview published by AL-AHRAM today, he emphasized that the current rapprochement between Egypt and Syria will benefit the situation in Lebanon as the two countries constitute the basis of the Arab front against Israel. Moreover, he added, the two countries are fundamental in any solution to the Middle East issue because they provide an atmosphere of Arab and international support for resolving Lebanon's crisis.

He clarified his vision of a solution to the Lebanese crisis through the implementation of the UN resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and through internal national reconciliation which would enable Lebanon to face dangers with pan-Arab support. This solution also lies, he added, in establishing firm and clear bases for Syrian-Lebanese relations as Syria is our closest brother which can help us in ending the crisis.

He said the current state institutions are preparing to build Lebanon's legitimate army. He added: We will seek the support of Lebanon's brothers to extend the state's authority to all Lebanese territories whether voluntarily or by force.

He noted that the core of the Lebanese crisis lies in Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and its continued intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs in pursuit of its plan to fragment Lebanon and establish racist sectarian entities similar to the Israeli entity to pave the way for dividing the entire Arab nation.

On General Michel 'Awn's use of the Syrian presence in northern Lebanon as a pretext for launching an all-out liberation war, he said Gen. 'Awn suddenly took control of the army command and his greed for power allowed him to be exploited by any party seeking to prolong the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Husayni asserted that al-Ta'if accord, which the Chamber of Deputies endorsed at its session in al-Qulay'at, is the basis of all planned laws and reforms in Lebanon.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Talks in Paris

PM0304144290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Huda al-Husayni in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Huda] Why are you in Paris? What mission have you come to accomplish?

[Al-Husayni] With the start of the first ordinary session of the Chamber of Deputies I had to hold consultations with a number of deputies who are in Paris on matters of guidance, control, the attitude toward the legitimate authorities' plan to establish state authority throughout Lebanese territory, and current developments in the eastern area which, like other areas, should also come under that authority.

[Huda] Will the establishment of legitimate authority be done through dialogue?

[Al-Husayni] As you know, dialogue has already taken place and has produced the national accord document approved by the majority of deputies. The consolidation of authority and security was supposed to take place through understanding, but, following the national agreement, security must come through Lebanon's legitimate armed forces under the command of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

[Huda] Why do the deputies refuse to return to Beirut to consult with you on matters concerning the Chamber of Deputies?

[Al-Husayni] I said repeatedly before coming to Paris that I was not going to Paris to bring the deputies back. As usual, the deputies are always ready to do their duty when necessary. I have not heard anything about their refusal, except now from you. [passage omitted]

[Huda] Do you believe that Bkirki [headquarters of Maronite Patriarch Sfayr] is capable of imposing a solution of some kind on the eastern area that would pave the way to a settlement of the Lebanese crisis?

[Al-Husayni] The work of many leaderships, especially that of Bkirki, were sidelined so as to prevent a solution. Bkirki's resumption of its role is a good sign that could rectify matters. We support the move of his beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr because we know how committed he is to Lebanon's unity, coexistence among all the Lebanese, and the restoration of legitimate authority throughout Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

[Huda] What solution did the French initiative envisage and has that initiative failed?

[Al-Husayni] As the French themselves have repeatedly said, there was no French initiative. French Ambassador Rene Ala made efforts to speed up the transfer to the legitimate authority of the part of the Army taken over by Michel 'Awn, but these efforts have so far produced no results. [passage omitted]

[Huda] Why have you stopped paying salaries to employees in the eastern area? Do you encourage people in the eastern area to emigrate from Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] I have no authority in that matter but what I know through my position in the legislative authority and what I see is the opposite. We have not stopped paying anyone's salary. The Defense Ministry and all the other ministries have asked that payrolls be signed by the legitimate authorities, because no salary could or should be paid to people who do not recognize the legitimate authorities. How could the Finance Ministry pay out funds without the authorization of the officials in charge? [passage omitted]

[Huda] You have said that you are willing to conduct a dialogue with Samir Ja'ja' but you rejected a dialogue with General Michel 'Awn, even though the lines are open between B'abda ['Awn's headquarters] and Damascus.

[Al-Husayni] It is not true that I said that I would not have a dialogue with any particular person. I said that a dialogue had already taken place and that therefore there could be no dialogue with Gen. 'Awn, who is a mutineer officer who has been referred for trial. As regards the Lebanese Forces, the al-Ta'if agreement stipulates that they and other similar militias must be dissolved and that their political activity must be conducted on the peace train. I said that there was room on the peace train for everyone and that we would not turn away anyone wanting to join it. We are trying hard to implement the national accord document.

[Huda] In other words, do you refuse to conduct a dialogue with Samir Ja'ja' in his capacity as Lebanese Forces commander?

[Al-Husayni] It is not a question of dialogue. The dialogue has already taken place and resulted in the national accord document. We believe there are two categories of dialogue. One is the Islamic-Christian dialogue within the context of coexistence. This is a permanent institution and there is daily dialogue between members of the same family and the same people. We are proud of that and we view it as a cultural and human world achievement. Then there is the political dialogue which has already taken place. The national accord document agreed on a government that could organize the development process democratically, through parliamentary elections, after it was implemented according to the provisions of the national accord document. The new chamber of deputies would then have the power to develop, amend, introduce, or cancel whatever it wants.

[Huda] Are you aware of Gen. 'Awn's contacts with Damascus?

[Al-Husayni] I know of no such contacts. What I do know is that Syria's position is identical to that of the legitimate authority, and the spreading of such rumors will not change the strategic objective at all. That objective is the restoration of the state's authority in all Lebanese territory.

[Huda] You put much emphasis on the role of the Chamber of Deputies. Some people are calling for new elections under the supervision of UN forces to ensure honesty, impartiality, and safety.

[Al-Husayni] I am not in favor of creating false hopes, nor do I advocate slogans which could impede solutions. Some people indulge in wishful thinking when they put forward such illusions. I believe these are hopes that cannot be fulfilled.

[Huda] Do you mean that UN supervision of elections is a false hope?

[Al-Husayni] There is no possibility of elections as long as there are illegitimate armed forces on Lebanese territory. That is why we say that the national accord document—which was supported unanimously by the UN Security Council and which was also supported by European and Asian groups and by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Arabs—is the only way to lead the Lebanese to elections under the umbrella of their legitimate authorities. Here I must ask: If elections could be held under UN supervision, why is the international community unable to implement the unanimously approved Resolution 425 on the south? [passage omitted]

Birri Criticizes Government's 'Procrastinating'

NC0304172290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri was asked this afternoon about the cabinet meetings. He said: The government is in a state of wait-and-see, and is doing nothing except procrastinating. The eastern area is waiting for the government, and the government is waiting for the eastern area. West Beirut is waiting for the security plan, and the security plan is being held up by legitimacy. Not only is the government not paying attention to the south and Iqlim al-Tuffah, but perhaps it is also penalizing them. It is not true that there is no army. It is possible to improve many things with existing resources, even if it is not possible to resolve them in a concrete manner. It has become necessary to restore the military council so everyone can shoulder his responsibilities.

Asked about the cabinet's discussion of the al-Ta'if agreement, he said: Regarding what is being said about the constitutionality of al-Ta'if, in short, we affirm that we will not accept in the cabinet the inclusion of any sectarian provision in the constitution. We will not accept a new Article 95 [not further explained]. Political reforms include the elimination of political sectarianism and not vice versa.

RFL Reports Continuing Intermittent Fighting

NC0404070990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Fighting is continuing intermittently on the newly formed combat lines in the eastern area. Two mortar shells fell in al-Nab'ah one of which caused a fire near

al-Nab'ah Mosque. The situation developed into clashes with medium-caliber weapons and rockets. The clashes became tense in the al-Nab'ah area shortly before 0715 today and extended to Sinn al-Fil and Salome.

In another development this morning, the Mirna al-Shaluhi center was the scene of machine gun clashes and some B-7 shells fell in the area. A shell fell on al-Sayyar combat line at dawn today causing a fire. Meanwhile, the Galerie Khabbaz, Rahmah Center, and al-Barjawi areas came under bombardment from the positions of 'Awn's armed men.

Intermittent clashes took place after midnight last night in Jisr al-Wati and Furn al-Shubbak. Earlier, machine gun and rocket fire was directed at al-Barjawi from al-Tibbiyah, and residential areas in Hayy al-Siryan were shelled. At about 2330 yesterday, the Kasrawan Coast was the target of several shells following the bombardment of the Lebanese Forces positions and residential areas in 'Ajaltun from the positions of 'Awn's armed men.

'Awn Gunmen Hit Mines in Infiltration Attempt

NC0304201090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] At 2100 today a group of 'Awn gunmen attempted to sneak toward Nahr al-Kalb hill. A number of mines blew up under them, resulting in a number of casualties among them. To facilitate the evacuation of the casualties, 'Awn gunmen shelled the Lebanese Forces positions, resulting in the outbreak of a limited clash.

Gunmen Kill Army Captain in Sidon

NC0304122690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Gunmen assassinated Lebanese Army Captain Yusuf Nu'mani as he emerged from his house east of Sidon today. According to security sources, three masked gunmen in a green BMW opened machine gun fire at Capt. Nu'mani as he emerged from his house in the 'Adra area at 0800 today. Capt. Nu'mani died after receiving three gunshot wounds to the head.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0304110090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Skirmishes involving machine guns, rockets, and artillery fire are taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the south.

Seven Officers Join West Beirut Army Command

NC0404092690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Reports indicate that seven [Army] officers have joined General Emile Lahhud's command over the last two days. Thus the number of officers who have joined General Emile Lahhud since 31 January has risen to 75.

Afghanistan

Kabul Forces Suffer Heavy Losses in Qandahar

BK0304153190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin forces reportedly have inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Kabul regime forces in Qandahar. During the fighting, mujahidin forces captured several posts, killed two and wounded nine officers. Thirty-three Kabul regime soldiers defected to the mujahidin. In another attack in the same province, mujahidin forces killed 22 and wounded 16 Kabul militiamen. They also set fire to a Kabul regime ammunition dump during the operation.

State Security Buys Missiles From Opposition

LD0304174790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] According to decree No. 304 dated 10 October 1987, the Ministry of State Security organs recently has purchased two Strella-2 type surface-to-air missiles from an opposition group in the Baghlan Province surroundings.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reported the purchase price was paid to the other side along the decree's guidlines.

Council of Ministers Conduct Plenary Session

LD0404093790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 3, BAKHTAR—The plenary session of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers was held here today. Presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA.

The session discussed the repairing of the shrine of Hazrate Ali, 4th Caliph of Islam, as per the earlier order given by Najibullah, president of the RA, and accordingly instructed the concerned bodies to take immediate action for its repairing. The Council of Ministers also dutified the ministry of information and culture and the artists union to take practical measures for safeguarding the artistic aspects of the sacred shrine. It was also decided that a special office be opened in the building of Mazar-I-Sharif shrine to look after the maintenance of the shrine.

Considering that the savage attacks of the extremist bands in Nangarhar Province, which were thwarted by the Afghan armed forces, have produced many problems there. [sentence as received] The Council of Ministers decided that urgent actions must be taken in every respects by the ministries concerned for the rehabilitation of Nangarhar Province.

In addition, in today's session the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers in a separate resolution instructed its permanent commission on the management of purchasing agricultural products to supervise permanently the process of realising the purchasing plan of agricultural products from the domestic sources and to [word indistinct] measures in this respect.

In the session of the Council of Ministers report of the permanent commission of the executive committee of that council in the currency affairs together with the achievements of that commission and U.S. dollar 6.25 million economized last year was also presented to the session. A resolution passed in the session dutified the commission to take extra measures for the saving of foreign currency. Assessment of financial situation, maintaining of stability in the exchange of foreign currency against the afghani.

Matters relating to the creation of a research institute in the framework of the Ministry of Mines and Industries as well as decision of the Executive Board of DA Afghanistan Bank for the increment of the capital of the mortgaging bank from AFS 40,000,000 to AFS 750,000,000 and other socio-economic issues were discussed and decisions were made.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Speaks About National Elections

Urges Opposition To Participate

BK0304144990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 3 (AFP)—Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed Tuesday [3 April] called on opposition political parties to join future national elections in Bangladesh, but shunned speculation over early polls.

"The recently held upazilla (local council) election is a triumph for the (ruling) Jatiya Party (JP) and the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as all major opposition groups participated in the polls, and I call on them to join future national polls," the prime minister told reporters at an informal meeting.

Mr. Ershad had recently told a local daily that he was ready to call early elections if doing so would strengthen democracy in Bangladesh. "The elections can be called, but before that there should be an understanding with opposition political parties," he was quoted as saying. Presidential elections are scheduled to be held in 1991 and parliamentary polls in 1993.

He said the 12-day staggered elections which ended last Wednesday also proved that "free and fair" polls were possible and that "overall understanding is needed to overcome some limitations—like deaths and vandalism during such events."

The opposition has said that at least 24 people died and scores were injured in violence linked to the polls, while the official figure was put at 17. Political analysts here said that violence was minimal compared with past elections in the country.

Although voting for 426 of Bangladesh's 460 sub-district councils or upazillas was officially held on a non-party basis, major opposition parties for the first time did not boycott the elections and actively backed their candidates. They had earlier rejected the upazilla system.

Asked why ruling party candidates have lost in some areas, Mr. Ahmed said, "We were not very serious about it and did not give it so much importance initially and gave our support to several candidates after the opposition joined the elections."

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the opposition Awami League, reportedly said her party won 121 seats of 359 for which unofficial results have been announced so far and charged the ruling party was involved in massive vote-rigging.

Mr. Ahmed handed out a list of 197 JP candidates who have been officially declared elected so far from 393 sub-district councils, and added that he expected the number to go up when some independents joined the JP. The results were withheld after opposing candidates contested the outcome.

He refused to comment on Bangladesh's current economic situation, which former Finance Minister Wahidul Haque said was heading towards a "crisis."

Earlier Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, told a local weekly that the "economy was under control" and current problems were "only temporary."

Calls Recent Elections 'Free,' 'Fair'

BK0304161190 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed says the recently held upazila [subdistrict] elections in the country were peaceful, free, and impartial. He was speaking to newsmen in Dhaka today on the occasion of releasing the names of [words indistinct] 197 upazila parishad [council] chairmen supported by the Jatiya Party. The prime minister said the results of the elections have undoubtedly proved that free and fair elections could be held under the present government. He said one of the positive aspects of the upazila elections was the participation of all political parties, directly or indirectly. The prime minister hoped all political parties will also take part in the future elections.

Election Commissioner Satisfied With Local Polls

BK0404065690 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Chief Election Commissioner Justice Sultan Hossain Khan on Tuesday [27 March] reiterated the determination of the Election Commission for holding proper, free and impartial polls at any cost to uphold the democratic tradition of the country, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of conclusion of the 12-day Upazila Parishad [subdistrict council] Chairmen election the Chief Election Commissioner congratulated the people for making the election a success.

Expressing his satisfaction at the success of the election Justic Khan said this proved that for the success of any national activity sincere goodwill, united efforts and sincere cooperation of the people were essential.

He said the success of this election had already been appreciated at home and abroad.

Justice Khan said though Upazila Parishad chairmen election was held on non-party basis most of the candidates at the polls were the supporters of different political parties and many political parties became intersted in it.

He said due to this involvement of the political parties with this election the acceptability of the election had been increased and at the same time it became easier to conduct the whole election in proper, free and impartial way. Largescale participation in polls was one of the important matters for holding free and impartial election, he added.

Awami League Chief Speaks on National Issues

Concerned About Corruption

BK0304104790 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Awami League chief and leader of the Eight-Party Alliance Sheikh Hasina in a statement expressed deep concern over the present deplorable economic situation in the country created due to unabated corruption. She demanded the resignation of the present regime for the economic crisis in the country.

The Awami League chief demanded a white paper from the government on the list of imports amounting to about Taka 4,000 crores, depletion of the foreign exchange reserve, and flight of hundreds of crores of Taka through overinvoicing from the country. She said that the country's economy had today come to a stagnant point due to misrule since 1975.

She observed that the resignation of the Finance Minister and the Planning Minister had proved the critical economic situation now confronting the country. She said that now the present anti-people and corrupt government should also quit.

Referring to government claim for austerity, the Awami League chief said that the nation had a right to know what benefit the country got out of repeated expensive foreign tours by the government leaders.

Expressing her deep concern over the ever increasing price hike Sheikh Hasina said that the common people were now groaning under the economic hardship. She warned against imposition of new taxes and demanded immediate arrest of price spiral of essential commodities before the holy month of Ramadan.

Urges Movement's Intensification

BK0404043590 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Awami League chief and the leader of the Eight-Party Alliance Sheikh Hasina called upon the nation to be imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and intensify the present mass movement to oust the present regime which she said had distorted the history of the Liberation War, usurped the democratic rights of the people and destroyed the national economy.

In a statement on the eve of the Independence Day the Awami League chief recalled the supreme sacrifice of the Freedom Fighters and people of all walks of life in 1971 Liberation War in wresting the national independence from the occupation army. She said that the nation fought the Liberation War for political and economic emancipation. But, she regretted, even after 19 years of independence people were deprived of their democratic and fundamental rights under successive martial law regimes since the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

The Awami League chief pointed out that those who opposed the War of Liberation were now active under the patronage of the present regime in distorting the history of the Liberation War. She asserted that the nation would one day try those who were trying to destroy the spirit of the liberation war and who killed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Referring to the present political and economic situation in the country Sheikh Hasina said that democracy was the pre-condition to national development. She blasted the Martial law regimes after 1975 for snatching the democratic rights of the people, destroying the election system and bringing the national economy to a critical state through unabated corruption. She pointed out that the Finance and Planning Ministers had resigned which proved the deplorable economic situation in the country. She urged all patriotic public servants and businessmen to stop flight of capital and plundering of the country's economy by the present government and their "favoured persons."

Accuses Government of Poll Rigging

BK0404071190 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday [28 March] the Government had once again lost its credibility by resorting to "extreme electoral corruption in the upazila [subdistrict] polls," reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

"It (the government) has lost credibility both at home and abroad by stealing votes and misappropriating public funds," she told a press conference at Bangabandhu Bhaban.

She said the government-backed candidates had lost miserably in the March 14-25 elections but they were declared elected through rigging and irregularities in vote counts.

"The government would not have got even 5 per cent seats had there been free and fair election," she claimed alleging widespread rigging, intimidation and ballot piracy.

The Awami League leader said the opposition-backed candidates had won only in those centres where administrative officers and members of the law enforcing agencies tried to maintain neutrality despite "intimidation".

She said at least 100 of the total seats captured by Jatiya Party candidates were, in fact, won by the opposition candidates.

"We have so far received information about 24 deaths in violence during the elections," she said adding that there was, however, less violence than the last Union Parishad [council] elections because of public resistance and sincerity of some officials.

Hartal [strike] had been observed in at least 20 places in protest against the government's irregularities and terrorism during the elections, she said.

In almost all the 35 upazilas where election results had been postponed the opposition-backed candidates were leading, she said. She demanded that the repolling in those centres, now scheduled for April 12, be held after the month of Ramzan [28 March-26 April].

She named some polling centres where the election results given by the Presiding Officers widely differed from those declared by the district election control room.

In some places, she said, the number of votes bagged by Jatiya Party candidates was close to the total number of voters, she said.

Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad, General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury and central leaders including Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu and Mohammad Nasim were present at the press conference.

Hasina said all post-1976 governments followed a common formula floating a political party with hired politicians and resorting to vote rigging, killings and terrorism, and plundering of the economy.

Referring to the reported capital flight, she said 53 per cent of last year's (1988-89) import worth Tk [Taka] 7,167 crore had no accounts.

She said taka 85 crore worth of rice import from Thailand was made at a very higher rate and added that import is not being made for economic development but to benefit some quarters.

Hasina pointed out that the country's foreign exchange reserve had now come down to Taka 20 crore only from Tk 100 crore in 1988-89 and added that the currency had to be devalued because of the smuggling out of the money.

Protesting the imposition of duties on some essential commodities she said this would increase commonman's sufferings.

She announced that Awami League would organise country-wide rallies and processions on April 1 demanding an end to "autocracy" and protesting the price-hike.

Opposition Calls Present Government 'Illegal'

BK0304110990 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Major alliances and political parties on Saturday [24 March] held rallies and demonstrations in the city and elsewhere in the country in observance of what they called 'black day' denouncing the occupation of state power by the present government in 1982 by ousting an elected government. The rallies termed the present government as illegal.

Speakers at the rallies made scathing attacks on the government for destroying the democratic institutions, rigging elections and uperising [as published] the economy by plundering the country's resources.

The seven-party alliance led by Bangladesh Nationalist Party on the occasion held a rally at Gulistan Square. The rally was addressed by Begum Khaleda Zia, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Mir Shaukat Ali, Shamsul Arefin, Begum Ahsanullah, Mirza Abbas Amanullah Aman and Salahuddin.

Bangladesh Awami League in observance of 'black day' organised a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue. Central leaders of the party including Amir Hossain Amu, Muzaffar Hossain Paltu, among others addressed the meeting. The Awami League rally alleged that the present government had resorted to massive rigging in the on-going upazila [subdistrict] elections depriving a large number of opposition candidates including the Awami League candidates from victory.

Jamaat-i-Islami Bangladesh observed the day as mass killing day and held a rally at the northern gates of Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Jamaat chief Maulana Abbas Ali Khan, Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mujahid, Mohammed Kamruzzaman and others addressed the rally.

Abbas Ali Khan criticised the government for observing eight years of prosperity saying that the real situation was completely reverse. He said the government was observing the day at a time when the country's foreign exchange reserves had gone to all time low and economic disarray had played havoc and law and order situation was at its lowest.

He said that no election under the government could be free and fair and called for holding of elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The Five-Party Alliance, the United Communist League and Oikkya Prokria jointly held a rally in front of GPO [General Post Office] in observance of black day.

The rally observed that there was no alternative to removing the government to save the country from destinction. [as published] It called upon the progressive and democratic forces to forge unity to establish a democratic government and save the economy from plunders and the society from massive corruption.

Leaders of the alliance including Nirmal Sen, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Huq Inu, Sharif Nurul Ambia and Mahmudur Rahman Manna were present at the rally. The declaration in the rally was read out by BSD [Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal] chief A.F.M. Mahbubul Huq.

The day was also observed by Six-Party alliance, Bangladesh Gono Azadi League, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ganatantrik Karmi Shibir, Ganatantrik Sramik League Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon, Bangladesh Muslim League, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party, Islamic Sashantantra Andolon, Bangladesh Muslim League, Bangladesh National Awami Party (Muzaffar).

Khaleda Zia Issues Independence Day Message

BK0404044590 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] Chairman and Seven-Pary Alliance leader Khaleda Zia in a message on the eve of 20th anniversary of independence called upon the people to launch united movement against which snatched power in 1982, from an elected government the undemocratic regime to establish peoples rule in the country. [sentence as published]

Begum Khaleda Zia noted with concern that in the absence of representative government in the country for long time the economy is now in deep crisis, peoples right has been taken away and the people are denied of Justice in the absence of a free judiciary in the country.

BNP chief recalled the independence struggle in 1971 when Ziaur Rahman called the people to take part in Liberation War. She regretted that at the dawn of independence the then ruling party killed democracy by introducing one party rule in the country thereby destroying the ideals of liberation struggle.

Begum Zia called upon the people to get united for intensifying the democratic movement and to renew the pledge to topple the undemocratic government.

India

Official Comments on Trade Talks With U.S.

BK0404101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The finance secretary, Dr. Bimal Jalan, has said that India will adopt only those trade policies which are consistent with its needs and priorities. He was talking to newsmen in Washington at the end of a meeting of the Indo-U.S. economic and commercial subcommission yesterday. He said no breakthrough was achieved on trade issues and foreign investment policies.

The finance secretary said that the controversial Super-301 clause which named India as unfair trade partner was not raised at all as America is aware of our policy of not negotiating under threat of retaliation. Dr. Jalan, who led the Indian delegation at talks, however, said the meeting resulted in a greater appreciation of each other's points of view. He rejected the U.S. charge that investment policies are a barrier to foreign investment.

Referring to India's new export-import policy, the finance secretary told the subcommission that imports must largely be financed by exports and not through borrowings, and the policy aims at achieving this goal.

Newspaper Supports Continuing Naval Expansion

BK0404095390 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Navy After Detente"]

[Text] Note was taken in these columns some time ago of the contribution recently made by Chief of the Navy Admiral G J Nadkarni to a growing debate on our defence policy and planning. His case has now been carried forward by Admiral retired K K Nayyar, whose observations in the course of a lecture also merit serious consideration. Adm Nadkarni had pleaded for a long-term policy with adequate allocations: As he saw it, our preoccupation with Pakistan had led us to ignore other security concerns and problems on the east and the south and he thought the superpower detente did not have much of a bearing on our security interests which were not exclusively affected by the cold war. To some, this may have sounded as special pleading for the Navy and increased allocation for it; and to some others, his observations may have appeared like little more than a routine, Budget-eve demand; but few could dispute the eminent debatability of his ideas. Adm Nayyar has, while explicitly asking for a stronger navy, also expanded on Adm Nadkarni's theme. Cautioning against making too much of the Soviet-US detente, the former has also pointed out that it is, thus far, limited mainly to Europe. He has referred, too, to India's "peculiar" security situation, "characterised by inherent dissonances that persist between India and its neighbours". He has highlighted a more basic aspect fo the allocation issue by citing the maxim, "You do not buy navies, you build them", which is obviously applicable to other wings of the armed forces as well. He has also drawn attention to a major geopolitical reality by recalling the US rejection, despite the detente, of the Soviet proposal to include naval forces in the talks on arms reductions—and the corollary of the need for India to have a substantial presence in the Indian Ocean is inescapable. Both the admirals have, in other words, argued against ad hocism in defence policy and planning and for relating these to our regionally specific concerns. Together, they can form the basis for a more purposeful debate on the subject than party-political considerations alone can make possible.

Failed Bill on Punjab Reintroduced in Lok Sabha

BK0404094990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Constitution amendment bill seeking to extend the president's rule in Punjab by another six months was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha today by the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Earlier, the house waived the rule 338 of procedure which says that a bill once fallen cannot be brought up in the same session. Our correspondent reports that leaders of various political parties in both the houses of Parliament had a meeting this morning and finalized the reintroduction of the bill in both houses. According to the decision, the consideration and voting on the bill will be taken up tomorrow.

The Rajya Sabha will be convened on the 9th of this month to consider the bill as passed by the Lok Sabha. At the meeting, the government side was represented by the union ministers—Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mr. P. Upendra, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, and Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy. [passage omitted]

The Lok Sabha today expressed deep grief over the killing of innocent persons in a bomb blast at Batala town of Punjab yesterday. The house also conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Moving the condolence motion, the speaker, Mr. Ravi Ray, described the incident as ghastly. Members stood in silence for a while as a mark of respect in memory of those who lost their lives. The house is to have a special discussion on the incident later this afternoon. The speaker, Mr. Ravi Ray, told the house that he has

accepted a notice for the special discussion, but Congress-I members were not satisfied with this and wanted to have an adjournment motion on the issue. They staged a walkout when their demand was not accepted by the speaker.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Dinesh Singh of Congress-I said his party has decided not to attend the proceedings of the house rest of the week in protest against the nonadmission of the adjournment motion. He urged the speaker to reconsider his ruling. However, Mr. Dinesh Singh made it clear that his party will support the Constitution amendment bill on Punjab as per its earlier commitment. He alleged that the government is not serious in dealing with the burning problems of Punjab and Kashmir. Mr. R. Muthaiah of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], who was also present at the news conference, extended his party's support to the Congress-I decision.

Security Forces Target Kashmir 'Subversives'

BK0304160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces, in their continuing drive against the Pakistan trained subversives, arrested 12 more militants last night from a place close to the Line of Control. They were trying to cross over to Pakistan for advance training in arms. Nineteen subversives have been killed and 95 arrested by the security forces during the last five days. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized from the hideouts of the subversives. The state authorities have made it clear that the raids on the suspected hideouts of the subversives will continue.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Kashmir valley remained peaceful today. Curfew was relaxed in Srinagar for 9 hours from 0700 this morning. In view of the improved situation, 10 hours relaxation in curfew will be given in the city from 0500 tomorrow morning.

Hindu Religious Procession Bombed in Punjab

Indefinite Curfew Imposed

BK0304124490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, at least 10 persons were killed and over 20 injured when a powerful bomb exploded at a procession in Batala town in Gurdaspur District this afternoon. The bomb, which was planted on a bicycle in the Sabzi Mandi area, damaged several vehicles also. An indefinite curfew has been clamped in the town. Top police officials have reached the site, and the area has been cordoned off.

At Least 32 Reportedly Killed

BK0304160090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, April 3 (AFP)—At least 32 people were killed and more than 50 wounded Tuesday [3 April] when a powerful bomb ripped through a Hindu religious procession in the Punjab town of Batala, police said here. Police imposed an indefinite curfew on the town, 20 kilometres from this Sikh holy city, and sounded a state-wide alert amid fears of Hindu reprisals for the attack blamed on Sikh militants.

Angry Hindu rioters attacked police and hospital staff in Batala as soon as news of the bomb blast spread, reports reaching the police control room here said. Two constables and a nurse were reported to have been lynched by the protestors, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

Police fired several shots in the air to disperse the rioters who rampaged through the Batala civilian hospital where many of the wounded were taken, the reports said. The rock-throwing protestors who numbered nearly 1,000 began burning police motorcycles and cars. Police reinforcements were sent to Batala to halt the riots from spreading.

The early afternoon bomb explosion ripped through a Hindu religious procession celebrating Ram Navami, birthday of the Hindu god Rama, as it passed through a vegetable market in the densely populated walled city area of Batala.

Police said 25 people were killed instantly. Sixty were injured, of whom 39, many badly maimed, were rushed to hospitals in Amritsar. Seven of the injured died in the Guru Tegh Bahadur hospital here, bringing the death toll to 32. [passage omitted]

Iran

Velayati Urges Perez to Clarify Timetable

LD0304131290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Today Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent, expounded the UN secretary general's new proposal pertaining to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

First, referring to the ramarks delivered by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran's Friday prayers ceremony, based on the Islamic Republic of Iran's approval of the secretary general's new proposal, the foreign minister said: That response was officially dispatched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

Remarking on the generalities of the UN secretary general's new proposal, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] There are two fundamental points which we demand as guarantees: One is that in some sections it is necessary that the secretary general should further clarify his viewpoint, for example the way in which he is to bring in the discussion related to the clauses of the resolution in the course of the negotiations, to be carried out by the two sides in New York, under his excellency's supervision, and also the way in which the secretary general wishes to deal with each clause of the resolution: Will he finish one clause and then move on to the other clause? And if one of the protagonists creates an obstruction, will the secretary general use the power vested in him by the Security Council? That is to say, will he place a time limit on the negotiations, so that there will be a limit to the extent and protagonists wish to discuss their viewpoints? Will he announce his final decision in accordance with Resolution 598, at whatever point he decides that sufficient time has been allowed from the discussion and debate of those viewpoints? [end recording]

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Velayati reiterated the proposal for the fixing of the timetable and giving priority to clauses related to the withdrawal [of forces to behind the internationally recognized boundaries] and the exchange of POW's. He said: The viewpoints of the secretary general should be put forward clearly and categorically, so as to prevent Iraq from exploiting the situation, since the Iraqi Government has on many occasions put forward issues outside the clearly-defined and acceptable framework, causing digression from the main issue. We hope that in this round of negotiations, the secretary general will be more decisive and explicit in dealing with the side which violates Resolution 598, so that we may reach an optimal conclusion.

Elsewhere in his interview, Mr. Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] We hope that the secretary general will in this round of negotiations deal more decisively and explicitly with the side which violates Resolution 598, so that we may reach an optimal conclusion. The second point which we are concerned with relates to the fixing of a timetable. From the onset, that is to say even before the establishment of the cease- fire, the secretary general presented a timetable which was approved by the IRI, but the Iraqi side has, after the passing of over one and a half years, failed to give a clear response to that timetable. Of course, it is fortunate that the secretary general has put forward the issue of a D-day, in other words that starting-point which constitutes the basis of any kind of timetable. The fixing of a timetable is crucial for making any progress. In his new proposal, the secretary general has taken the first step, but it is necessary to take the remaining steps to clarify his stance in terms of the timetable. [end recording]

Saddam Remarks Said To Reflect 'Audacity'

NC0404070590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by unidentified correspondent from London]

[Text] Western information sources revealed that the Iraqi government has set up a new missile base near its Western border with Syria. This information has been obtained from satellite pictures and indicates that on this base, long-range missiles have been installed which are directed toward targets in Syria.

These bases are located along the length of a strategic highway between Baghdad and Amman and ostensibly, Jordanian officials had prior knowledge of the existence of these missile bases. Even though, within the context of the recent propagandistic clamor, it was announced that these missiles are probably capable of carrying nuclear warheads, reliable nuclear experts in Great Britain and the United States, commenting on the report in THE TIMES [of London], stated that Iraq is still many years away from manufacturing nuclear arms because of the backwardness of its technology and know-how. However, it is able to mount chemical warheads on these missiles which it used against the defenseless civilians of Halabjah.

Saddam's recent remarks about open use of chemical weapons have caused extensive reaction in Western political circles who have termed the remarks audacious and irresponsible; this same audacity and irresponsibility from Saddam has manifested itself on numerous occasions over the past 10 years in contravention of various international conventions and in trampling all moral and humanitarian international norms.

Yazdi Speaks at News Conference 18 March

LD0304150890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1734 GMT 30 Mar 90

[News Conference by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, with unidentified domestic and foreign correspondents in Tehran on 18 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Yazdi] To list very briefly the activities of the judiciary during the past six months with respect to security and the economy: Regarding security as well as the fact that action is being taken on an ongoing and daily basis, special cases arose which I will mention because they took on a national dimension: [the cases in] Nurabad of Lorestan, Nahavand, Gilan, Varamin, Borujerd, and the last one in Hamadan and also Esfahan which was a somewhat smaller matter than the Hamadan case and was dealt with by special decrees [ahkam-e vizhez]. For people who work in judicial fields, especially in areas of criminology, I think the cases I have mentioned are very good case studies.

With regard to the economic dimension, I will mention several specific cases in several provinces: First, in the Province of Zanjan, where a gang was arrested on the charge of embezzlement, the case was dealt with, action was taken. It led to the dismissal of a number of people; a number were demoted; some were fined and, of course, all the embezzled property was confiscated. Next, the central province, in Arak, which is a big case and is going

through its final stages; a number of people's sentences have been determined and, in the near future, others will receive their sentences and we may be able to announce them publicly.

In Tehran, there were several interesting cases, both in the private and the public sector. As an example, in the private sector I will mention Zarghamfar [reference to a family in north Tehran whose property was confiscated] and in the public sector, I will speak generally, the purchase of wool and some spare parts, the dossier for which has completed the first stages and is going through the next stage; and the final verdict will be issued in the future.

So those are examples, both in the private and the public sector. In other words, in Tehran, I can say that we have two or three more cases, some of which are going through the final stage—I asked the revolution prosecutor and in another case the public prosecutor—and some others are going through the first stages.

In Kerman, too, there were several cases, all of which concerned the private sector and some went back several years, for which the final verdict was issued a few days ago and, in several cases, all their property was confiscated by the government.

In Tehran, I can refer to the dossier of the Vedad and Nobovat company which is completing its final days and I am certain that it is one of the very important and good tasks which the judiciary has undertaken, with adherence to all legal and shari'ah aspects, and it is reaching the final points. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] With respect, Mr. Haji [reference to Yazdi having performed the Mecca pilgramage] as you have heard last week an Iranian-born reporter was condemned to death and executed several days ago by the Iraqi Government. Our correspondent would like to know your opinion on this issue?

[Yazdi] Since the facts about this issue are not known and are hidden in the corners and crevices of political games, we wait until the legal truth is clarified.

[Correspondent] Mr. Haji: Global imperialism has extensive propaganda on the issue of execution in Iran, alleging that there is no particular basis for issuing death sentences. Could you please explain what the procedure is before a guilty person is condemned to death?

[Yazdi] As you know Islam has precisely clarified the execution sentence among other punishments. There are very few and limited instances when the punishment is death. International law also considers the sentence of execution in certain cases; and highly scrutinized investigations are carried out in the case of those crimes which might lead to the death penalty. That is, the first stage is the preliminary investigation in the presence of the defending lawyer; and when it is challenged, the case goes to the Supreme Court for a review. After the review and final verdict with the influential opinion of the prosecutor general, the sentence can be carried out. That is, each sentence goes through three or four meticulous stages until the verdict can be implemented. The instances are very limited too. It is not as if anyone is executed for various crimes. It is particularly interesting to note that in Islam a person who is condemned to death and has gone through all the appeal procedures, can be forgiven if the relatives of his victim agree to commute the sentence to receiving blood-money. We have laws on this too; and in certain cases the blood-money can be paid from the national treasury to win the person's freedom.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask two more questions, the first one is about foreign press propaganda to the effect that current developments in the judicial have come about as a result of factionalism inside the country. Could you please announce your views on this issue and could you please explain whether the judiciary is inclined toward any particular faction? And my last question is about the steps undertaken to improve the situation inside prisons. Could you please explain this because there is plenty of propaganda on this matter. Thank you very much.

[Yazdi] Fortunately, the first requirement of judgment is neutrality in all cases; and if a responsible judicial authority were to support one side in a dispute, he would be dismissed immediately, because siding with a party undermines his fairness, and fairness is a must. If one were to become involved in the factions, he would automatically lose his sense of justice and could not hold such a responsible status. I therefore declare explicitly and decisively that the judicial is not in any of the factions and tries to perform its task properly. Even in appointing individuals, we give priority to this principle above any factionalism. For, a person should suit the task and not vice versa. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What kind of action has the judicial branch already taken or will it take against economic terrorists?

[Yazdi] As you are aware, when the judicial system decides to issue a verdict against any person, it should refer to a particular legal bill. That is, the judge in his sentence should say: in accordance with such and such article or clauses of the such and such law. On this basis we have no law about economic terrorism, and no judge can condemn anyone to death on this charge; and if a judge were to do so, he would himself be condemned to death after his trial in the disciplinary court. It is therefore up to the Islamic Majles to pass a law or a single article announcing that punishment for economic terrorism is execution. Naturally, it [the Majles] should interpret the term as well, the same as other legal terms which have a precise meaning and spere of application. The crime should be explained in details together with the limits of punishment. What we have at the present is the Law of Article 49. This law can be found in the constitution, and is one of the common laws passed by the Islamic Majles. There are other laws concerning such

offenses as fraud, bribery, forgery, robbery and other similar examples, which are ferred to when necessary. Therefore, the existing laws make some reference to cases similar to the so-called economic terrorism, but we have nothing under the title [economic terrorism] itself. If the Majles were to compile a bill, it is natural that the judiciary would implement it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that at present some companies are abusing the title of joint-stock [mozarebeh] in order to ruin the country's economy, what effective steps have been taken by the judiciary to combat this economic menace?

[Yazdi] About the joint-stock companies one must be careful not to confuse legal matters with political issues. As I mentioned earlier, the court must work on the basis of existing laws. When a complaint is filed against the joint-stock companies about their fraud and confidence tricks, when they deceive the public to rob them of their assets, then we can prosecute these companies for fraud, deception, and other similar charges. As you are aware, there have been sentences against some of these companies, their assets have been confiscated and returned to their victims. Some cases are currently under investigation. Sometimes the complainants come to withdraw their complaint and others pursue the case demanding their money. I would like to say that the judicial system has dealt with the joint-stock companies as far as the law permits.

[Correspondent] What measures are being taken to confront [words indistinct] including people who have clashed with security officials? Second, the existence of legal vacuum for confronting offenders in various areas has created problems for the people the society. What plans does the judiciary have in that connection? My third question: You said there would soon be an amnesty for prisoners, will that be during the New Year period? If not, have provisions been made for New Year's leave for the prisoners or not?

[Yazdi] Could you please ask your questions one by one or else give me your list so that I can answer them one by one.

[Correspondent] The first question was: (?what measures are taken to confront) the offenses of some people in society including people who clash with security officers; there were several instances in Tehran.

[Yazdi] As you know, one of the duties of the judiciary is the maintenance of security by ensuring that laws are correctly obeyed. And most of that relates to people who implement legal regulations or to security officials. I will say categorically here that I want to praise and thank all security officials throughout the country and especially in the big cities for the fact that, by confronting danger, they have performed and are performing their duties well. And if there have been instances when an offense has been committed, on either side—that is, if the fault has been on the part of the people toward officials—that has been seriously confronted. We have laws, it is considered an offense, and especially with regard to [offenses against] officials on duty, they are more seriously dealt with and the punishment is also more severe—that has been and will be confronted. On the other side, too, if officials, God forbid, have been negligent in any way while performing their duty, that will naturally also be examined and the law applies to everyone in the same way.

[Correspondent] The existence of a legal climate to fight against offenders of [words indistinct] has created problems for the people in this society. What measures has the judicial power taken in that respect?

[Yazdi] I do not think that we have any legal vacuums in our combat against offenders at present; that is to say if a person perpetrates an offense—of course, the word offense should be interpreted in the judicial sense as commiting a crime, since offenses, wrongdoings, misdeeds, each can have different connotations attached to them—the law has laid down specific punishments for any person who perpetrates an offense or in other words breaks a law, irrespective of the circumstances involved. There is no offense we could not deal with because a law does not exist. As you are aware we have general laws which are at the discretion of the judge to be used in deciding punishments; that is to say he has the prerogative to use his discretion in meting out punishments according to the circumstances of the perpetrator, the time and place where the crime was perpetrated, and other factors which may be relevant in deciding the degree and extent of the crime. [passage omitted] So we do not have any legal vacuums in terms of dealing with, in your words, the offender.

[Correspondent] Regarding dealing with economic terrorists, will you be passing on any specific plans to the Majles or will you await a judicial decision?

[Yazdi] As I mentioned before, the laws which we already have pertain to Article 49 and the Common Law [Qanun-e 'Addi] related to that under the headings of embezzlement and fraud which are stipulated in the common law, and the laws pertaining to hoarding the overpricing which have been sanctioned by the Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System. These are laws on which we base our conduct at present. If the honorable Majles and the honorable government deem the imposition of a more severe measure necessary—since most of these call for expert opinions, specifically in the present conditions which under the name of reconstruction and economic debates, have been given a more open forum and we are carrying out our tasks based on the existing laws—or the existence of further limitations, then according to the regulations, a draft bill will be drawn up, which will automatically be passed on to the judicial committee, after being approved by the Majles and sanctioned by the Council of Guardians, after which we will be ready to implement them.

[Correspondent] Apart from the aforementioned, where else do you feel there is a legal vaccuum?

[Yazdi] As I said, regarding the infrastructural and general issues for changing the system to a totally Islamic one, we have requirements, and have drawn up some laws which are at present being debated in the Majles besides the laws of the common courts. There is the commission in charge of drawing up judicial draft bills which is under the coverage of the judicial deputyship [Mo'avenat]. We have supplied this commission with the necessary information so that they can provide us with what we need. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] From the Islamic viewpoint, under what circumstances can the command [Farman] issued by your spiritual leader be revised and who is authorized to do this?

[Yazdi] By command issued by the spiritual leader do you mean in connection with the issue of amnesty, or other cases?

[Correspondent] It is a general question.

[Yazdi] The command issued is binding and cannot be revised. [passage omitted]

Mr. Yazdi, despite your successful operations in dealing with criminal files, nevertheless in connection with dealing with the issue of hoarding and overpricing which are among the fundamental problems of society, there are still compromises being made in dealing with such individuals. In view of the fact that the judicial power has become centralized and the necessary weapons for dealing with such problems exist, why is it that those hoarders have not been dealt with seriously?

[Yazdi] Making compromises is a serious accusation which has been leveled at the judicial authority, but fortunately we have laws, which have been sanctioned by the Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System, examples of which I have already cited, with which we have dealt with those individuals, and in our dealings we have made no discriminations between the private and the government sectors. Therefore, naturally, we will not accept such an accusation. I have even recently submitted a report to the esteemed leader, giving examples in both private and government sectors.

Not only do we not make compromises anywhere, but we abide by the law in all our dealings. That is to say, if some individual asks us to break laws in the name of the revolution, we will refuse to do so, since it is our duty to supervise the proper execution of the law. Whereever we have had a law, we have acted accordingly. If you show us any cases where there was a law in existence, but we made compromises, then I will account for that personally.

As for the trend in prices, that is something which is related to the organizations in charge of fixing prices and governmental organizations. It is not an issue related to the judicial authority, and if you further your knowledge you will discover that this issue is related to the government commission in charge of economic affairs which is comprised of a few ministers who will debate their proposal and the chain effect one proposal may have on other matters, and in some cases they even accept a chain effect which may even produce inflationary results, for the sake of a more significant issue, such as the issue of Kish port which has today been named as a free port. Therefore it has side effects too, but side effects which they have debated and studied in that commission. The judicial power cannot say any more than that it hands out punishments for offenses in accordance with the law, or else it prevents the perpetration of an offense and in doing so it acts in accordance with the law. If there is a general policy which in accordance with the existing laws approved by the government needs to be implemented, then I should say here that the judicial apparatus will in general, within the legal framework, coordinate its policies with the country's general policies, that is to say, with the government, the Majles, the leader. That coordination does not mean that it should condone one of its own legal obligations, but that it should carry it out within the framework of the law.

[Correspondent] Your excellency referred to the judicial power's compatibility with society's needs, and the initiatives you have taken in that connection. As you are aware, we are facing numerous problems in terms of judicial staff and man power. Would you please tell us what steps you have taken in that connection? The next question concerns the commission in charge of fixing prices, and the government proposal for its dissolution. What is your opinion of this?

[Yazdi] Regarding the provision of manpower, as you are aware, the Academy for Judicial Sciences is generally one of our sources for providing manpower, which fortunately produces a number of graduates each year, who start work and are absorbed by the judicial authority. The second source is the seminaries, which comprise a judicial academy or seminary in Qom, in which seminarians with the potential to join the judicial authority undergo certain courses there before entering the judicial apparatus. Recently we have established an office in Qom to attract judges, the task of which is to identify those which have the necessary prerequisites—even on a part time basis, or for use in itinerant courts—for cooperation. We think that we will resolve the problem of manpower shortage soon through the endorsement of the laws issued by the common courts and the existing resources for attracting manpower.

Regarding Article 90 and the proposal related to the dissolution of Article 90, it merits a highly interesting judicial discussion which we do not have time for here. [passage omitted] The main problem is that the commission's final decision cannot be executed; and what is the use of dealing with a complaint when the final decision can not be executed? That is a judicial issue, and even though I may hold personal views in that respect, my opinion is devoid of any legal value. It is the Majles which makes the final decision. What ever they decide is the right answer. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] An issue which has been reiterated on so many occasions concerns that of the inconsistency in the judicial precedence in our judicial apparatus. Doesn't the inconsistency in the verdicts issued by various courts, as a result of which people's complaints, find their way to the Supreme Court, cause chaos regarding the files which arrive in the Supreme Court. If this is not related to the inconsistency of judicial policies, what is it then?

[Yazdi] This is an interesting judicial question to which much attention should be given. When a court gives a verdict against which an appeal is lodged, it is then referred to the Supreme Court where it is reviewed in terms of its nature. If the judge has issued a verdict in accordance with the law then the appeal will be overruled; if it has errors then it will be reviewed. So far these are routine investigations carried out by the country's Supreme Court. The inconsistency of precedence is a different issue which is that if two different verdicts are given in two different courts, but concerning one offense, that is to say that two different judges hold differing opinions in relation to one issue, then in such a case, a session will be convened comprising the heads of the branches of the country's Supreme Court, who debate which judge's verdict should be made the criterion, and in future cases the same criterion will apply. The result is that the judicial precedence session is a kind of legislative session which is convened in specific cases. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Role of Koran

LD0304121490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Speech by President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the significance of the Koran; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Muslims throughout history have been oppressed because of observing the Koran. The fact that the entire western world has united against this oppressed people is because of the Koran.

The fact that all the imperialist media backed the baseless fiction of "The Satanic Verses" and showed so much political and social support for it was because of the Koran, not because of us. He wrote the book in order to discredit the Koran and the prophet. That is why he is respected by them. There are so many other writers who have been opposed in the world, but they have not received so much support in this way and their books have not been published and distributed in this way. The fact that we see suddenly the might of the imperlialist palaces united behind this baseless fiction it is because they are against the Koran; and the Islamic Republic has been subjected to so much aggression because of its support for Islam and because of defending the Koran.

Of course, we regard this as one of the issues that we are proud of. We are not afraid of these things. From the start, when we set foot in these currents, we knew that as long as we supported Islam we would be opposed. It has been the same in history. Whenever there has been a movement in the name of Islam, particularly during the past 400 years, they have united against it and have defeated it. It is the first time that thanks to the truly wise leadership of the imam and this people's vigilance, and especially the vigilance of the clergy at this historic juncture, an Islamic government is established in the name of the Koran with Koranic laws. The standard is based on the Koran. This is a great achievement so far and the signs of God's blessings for the future is clear too. God willing, this Islamic base can gradually bring the rule of Islam to the Islamic society in the entire world; and, God willing, the Koran will find its deserved status among mankind; and those who work for those purpose in various ways will receive their reward from God. They will be regarded as soldiers of the Prophet and the imam of the age. I hope God will grant us success in safeguarding the blood of our martyrs and the fruit from the suffering of our devotees, those who paved the way for the movement of the Islamic world. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

ANC Secretary General Nzo Concludes Visit

LD0304154490 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—Secretary-general of the African National Congress Alfred Nzo left here Tuesday, winding up a 6-day visit during which he conferred with high ranking officials among them President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Nzo also met Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

Velayati Comments on Visit

NC0404083790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Alfred Nzo, the African National Congress [ANC] secretary general, concluded his five-day stay in Tehran and meetings with high-level officials of our country. The deputy minister for Arab African affairs of our Foreign Ministry saw him off when he left Tehran yesterday.

Foreign Minister Velayati termed the the ANC secretary general's visit to Iran positive in his interview with our correspondent and said:

[Begin Velayati recording] As you are aware, Mr. Nelson Mandela was recently released from prison. Following this measure, which one should say was a turning point in the history of the ANC, its international activities became more extensive. In the initial phases of this expansion, the ANC secretary general came on a four-day [as heard] visit to Iran.

The nature of this visit is an indication of the importance that liberation movements in the world attach to forging contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the significance that Iran attaches to these populist movements. During the course of his talks with the Iranian officials, bilateral relations between the ANC and the Islamic Republic of Iran were discussed. It was decided that opening an ANC office in the Islamic Republic of Iran should be reviewed favorably by both sides. As you have heard in the news, we immediately declared our serious and active support for the struggles of this Congress. In fact, a part of the ANC secretary general's remarks regarding appreciation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's positive stance toward this Congress in the past years.... [end recording]

[Announcer interrupts] Continuing his interview, Mr. Velayati added: Since the advent of of the Islamic revolution, our country has maintained a revolutionary stance toward the apartheid regime, and the ANC considers Iran's stopping oil sales to South Africa to have been an extremely valuable step. Our Foreign Minister added: At present, we have an organic and cohesive link with the ANC through our embassy in Zambia and in the near future, when the exiled ANC leaders return to their homeland, we will have more direct and extensive contacts with them.

Concluding his interview, he stressed that more than ever before, the Islamic Republic of Iran will step up necessary coordination in international organizations in support of the rights of the black majority of South Africa. He added: We consider their request for assistance positively and God willing, in the near future this assistance will be continued as much as possible.

Delegation Leaves for Economic Talks in Italy

LD0304154190 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujshi left for Rome today at the head of a top level delegation, to participate in the 2nd Iran-Italy joint economic-industrial commission to meet April 4-6. During his stay in Italy, Mahlujshi will confer with that country's officials on various aspects of mutual eco-industrial relations.

Before departure, Mahlujshi told reporters that he thought Italy might undertake to carry out the major part of Iran's first five year development plan.

The first joint commission was held in Tehran in September of 1988 which led to the signing of a letter of understanding between the two countries.

DPRK Official Meets Foreign Ministry Official

NC0404103390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The DPRK Foreign Ministry secretary general for international affairs [title as heard], who is currently in Tehran at the head of a delegation, met the Iranian deputy foreign minister for international affairs. According to the Central News Unit, he referred to the activities of the two countries in the Nonaligned Movement, South-South cooperation and stressed the need for multilateral cooperation between the two countries. He also declared his country's categorical support for implementing Resolution 598.

Our country's deputy foreign minister also emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy based on broadening South-South cooperation in practice and the need for coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement on the basis of the movement's principles regarding the greater powers' expansionism.

RESALAT Reports on 7 Mar Majles Session

PM0304140090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Mar 90 p 5

[Report from RESALAT's legal and parliamentary correspondent on 7 March Majles session]

[Excerpts] The Majles had an open session yesterday morning and afternoon.

During this session which was first chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Karrubi and later continued being chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan, there were recitations from the holy Koran followed by speakers who gave their pre-agenda speeches. Then the Majles went into session.

Here is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the coverage of the Majles session:

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's session was Mr. Nader Taheri, the people's deputy from Maragheh.

He said: The government serving the people must pay attention that in order to achieve the goals set out by the Five-Year Plan, there is need for a huge back-breaking effort, programming, control, organization and all-out supervision by the government.

Our officials must think of ways to alleviate the pressure on the shoulders of those with fixed incomes as soon as possible. No propaganda and no cultural effort is going to make a difference on an empty stomach or a hungry world. The government must not keep adding to the price of goods, services and charges that it has under its control with the excuse of meeting rising costs. These goods, services, and charges include sugar for industry, the municipality tax and hundreds of other things. There must always be job security for all officials and non-officials. The economic security and the dignity of the majority of the people is more important than anything else. The various types of social corruption, most of which have their roots in poverty, must with the people's help, and if God is willing, be uprooted in a short time.

Mr. Taheri, the people's deputy from Maragheh then gave some details on issues from his constituency.

Mr. Ha'eri-zadeh, the people's deputy from Birjand, was the second and last pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's Majles session. He commented on the fact that according to the holy Koran the mission—the prophet's enormous responsibility of promoting Islam—is to urge the people to uphold justice and Islamic rule, which only takes on its meaning with social justice.

He added: The movement toward justice according to the holy Koran must be in a direction that would ensure the inheritance of the poor and the rule of the oppressed and poor and nothing else. All actions and programs must be done paying great attention to verses of the holy Koran. [passage omitted] The gains made by every individual must be in accordance with his efforts, his ability and what he deserves. All efforts must be thought through. All laws and programs must be directed toward this goal. Every law, charter, directive or movement in the Islamic regime must be put in such a way so as not to add to the wealth of those who already have and to those who are collecting wealth. Islam and the Islamic regime mean constant battle against the wealthy, the powerful and the cunning—constant war against wealth, power and deceit. The Islamic regime means fines and utmost hardship for those who gather wealth and who do not use their wealth to benefit the Islamic ummah.

He then said: We are going through the most sensitive days following the imposed war. All our power and effort must be placed in the service of the people. All our effort must go toward helping the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president, who with the support of the dear leader, presents workable and precise bills to the Majles, and the Majles deputies will provide appropriate help and useful discussion with regard to government bills.

With support and guidelines from the dear leader it is necessary for us to expend great efforts to enable the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to be successful in its stern dealings with middlemen, hoarders and the billionaires who sell goods at inflated prices. If God is willing, they will be successful in stemming the destructive tide of inflation and destroy the monster of high prices.

In another part of his speech Mr. Ha'eri-zadeh commented on the discussion on social justice mentioned by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the Friday prayers sermon. He said:

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself devoted week after week to discussing the issue of social justice at the Friday prayers in Tehran. Now that the power of the government is in his hands, we must all give all the appropriate help we can so that the government is able—with the help of the judicial power—to crush the bullies, those who collect wealth, billionaire middlemen, hoarders and those who sell at high prices. This action cannot be accomplished only with pre-agenda speeches and sermons at the Friday prayers. These just just lay the groundwork in society. The government must deal firmly and correctly with the 19 trillion rials [figure as published] of cash flow in the hands of the private sector, with insight and just programming. Each year another 2 trillion rials is added to the cash flow in the hands of the private sector.

The speaker added: Some of the bazaar merchants, factory owners and even some doctors and engineers—only a minority—rob the people. Today, in accordance with orders of the dear leader we must be united and coordinated and we must utilize this unity to help the respected government so that the government can rule with the sword of justice just as Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family—had made justice his sword. The government must be able to effectively crush those who sell less than they should and those who sell at inflated prices, in accordance with the commands of the holy Koran. The 19 trillion rials in cash flow in the hands of the private sector represents an economic power four times the size of the budget and the government's public spending. It is without a doubt more powerful than four times the size of the government's public budget. The collection of nationalized industries, the Ministry of Industries and the companies in the expansion organization in the Ministry of Heavy Industries have 750 billion rials a year in terms of money in circulation and investments. All the nationalized industries and the expansion organization—everything they produce in a year, is swallowed by this giant cash flow. The television sets, refrigerators, cars, houses and all the things a new bride wants for her home, are swallowed up and become food for some middleman billionaire who uses them as a tool to gain more profit. Just as the Prophet said, God provides the money for housing and clothes and one day the poor will come into the money made by the wealthy. So if they are left hungary, it is the fault of the rich. As an example, some thieves set up some public stock companies, which was reported by KEYHAN in February, making 20 billion rials in profit in one deal. This meant 20 billion rials in profit in one deal for the company Sahar and Alica. They bought a ship carrying clothes on the Persian Gulf for 10 billion rials and within a short time sold it for 30 billion rials. I calculated that in one deal these thieves stole from the people's money 40 times the entire annual budget for Birjand University.

He quoted from Imam Hasan 'Asgari and said: The rich of the world steal all the facilities of life from the poor. He added: here are some who set up public stock companies, interest-free loan centers, foundations, trading companies, factories, shops or doctors' offices, hospitals or clinics and are busy stealing from the poor people. We must help so that the respected government can save those who receive salaries, teachers, university staff, small traders, workers and farmers from the monster of high prices. Thank God Ayatollah Uazdi, the dear chief of the judicial authority, has officialy promised in the media to deal seriously with this issue. Yesterday in

this Islamic Majles I received a letter from the wife of a young and religious person who has written: My husband is unemployed. Our family has no income or wealth. I have not had nor do I have any hope in life. My whole life is in danger. My 8-month-old baby is hungry. First of all I stretched out my hand for help because of my husband's illness and then again for everyday expenses. Keeping in mind the fact that this poor person has done nothing wrong, I am waiting for a reply from you, otherwise, God forbid, I may bring disgrace to myself. I have the original letter here. Imam 'Ali in his book has said: No man has ever gone hungry unless his rights have been denied by the rich. I am certain that all Majles deputies, Ayatollah Karrubi, the respected speaker of the Majles and other respected ulema in the Majles are fully ready to help the respected government's bills. That way, with God's wisdom, with support from the Madhi—may God expedite his return—and guidance from the leader, the government will be able to crush middlemen and high prices in a stern manner. With the help of the judicial power and all other forces in society, the government will be able to completely correct the country's tax system and control prices so that the path for serving the poor is opened.

The first item on the Majles agenda at yesterday's session was a report on the second meeting of the administrative and personnel commission with regard to the bill correcting some of the regulations dealing with the basis of pay of official members of the scientific staff in universities and institutions of higher learning—both active and retired. The bill was passed in the following form:

Item 1—From 21 March 1990 the pay scale and the grade system of the scientific staff mentioned in Article 15 of the hiring procedures' instructions for scientific staff at Tehran University, will be corrected in the following manner:

The salary is equal to the pay index (the basis plus five times the basic pay).

Footnote 1—The basis figure for trainee teacher, teacher, assistant professor, associate professor and professor is, respectively: 90, 100, 125, 145 and 170.

Footnote 2—Official members of the scientific staff, both teaching and research staff will receive a grade increase for every year of acceptable service in research, teaching, or in administrative work.

Item 2—From 21 March 1990, the pay index mentioned in item 1 of this law is 400 rials which may be increased to 1,200 rials.

Item 3—The government has a duty to designate within six months from the date that this bill becomes law, with recommendations from the ministers of culture and higher education and health and health education, a bonus payment for the scientific staff covered by this law. This is to be based on rank within the university, the importance of the job and its difficulty, and the manner in which the job is done.

Item 4—The retirement pay for those covered by this law who retire after this law has been passed will be in accordance with their last grade and step before retirement. At no time will this be any less than the highest retirement pay of civil servants covered by the country's administrative hiring laws.

Footnote: The retirement pay for those in the scientific staff who have retired before this law, as well as disability payments and benefits paid to their heirs will be increased by 20 percent from the time that this law is passed.

Item 5--Income tax for those members of the scientific staff covered by this law will be reduced by at least 10 percent keeping in mind the exemptions within the income tax laws.

Item 6—From the time that this law comes into effect, the law dealing with the use of the services of the scientific staff and other staff at universities and institutions of higher learning, outside of office hours, passed by the Majles on 29 July 1986, will be scrapped. The sums allocated for that law will be available for this one.

Footnote: The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and health and health education can use the services of staff other than the scientific body from universities, institutions of higher learning and research centers, outside of office hours, provided they are paid a sum at least equal to their salaries and bonuses.

Item 7—The executive order dealing with footnote 2 of item 1 and the footnote for item 6 and this bill will be prepared by the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health and Health Education.

Item 8—All laws that contradict this one are scrapped.

The second item on the agenda of the Majles session was continued discussion of a report from the second meeting of the Commission for Revolutionary Organizations with regard to a law for providing facilities for sacrificers [isar-garan] of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war. Items 15 to 21 of the bill were passed in the following form:

Item 15—The funds for the implementation of this law will come from the appropriate organization in charge of providing the funds. In case of need, the current costs can be met from credit line 50,3001 and welfare costs from credit line 50,3003 in accordance with recommendations from the appropriate organization and the approval of the cabinet.

Item 16—At least 30 percent of the interest-free loans and 10 percent of the grants that are passed by the Majles as part of the budget footnotes, which are paid by the banks, will be devoted to the sacrificers [isar-garan]. This will be given to the sacrificers in a manner recommended by the headquarters mentioned in item 1 of this law.

Item 17—All banks throughout the country have the duty to provide the credit for the plans presented by

those applicants mentioned in the bill (with a minimum of 90 percent fixed investment for the plan) with a minimum banking charge.

Item 18—The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic and the commission dealing with foreign currency have a duty to cooperate and to observe the priority given to the sacrificers.

Item 19—This law applies to all organizations mentioned: All ministries, organizations, government bodies, judicial organizations, the Islamic Majles, office of the president, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic and all its affiliated bodies, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, both Armed Forces and security staff, revolutionary organizations and all organizations under their care, all organizations linked to the government and all government organizations that are independent, government-owned factories, factories that have been nationalized confiscated; those which have government-designated managers; those factories which are in some way or another covered by a ministry or another government organization; municipalities and companies under their jurisdiction; all other organizations which somehow use the government's public budget or those for whom the government provides part of their budget, or those organizations and companies which will have to be named if they are to be included in the law. These organizations first have to apply to the government Personnel and Administrative Office to obtain their required level of manpower in every case where the law dealing with civil service staff hiring applies. In other cases, they must apply to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. They must provide their manpower needs from the ranks of those sacrificers who are introduced to them. The rest of their staffing needs can be filed in accordance with their own regulations.

Item 20—In order to properly use manpower and in order to keep the dignity of the sacrificers, the organizations have a duty to use their services in positions which are suitable to the sacrificers' physical and mental state. This must also indicate the high spiritual worth given by those organizations to the enormous value of these dear loved ones.

Item 21—The centers for the expansion of production and welfare services have a duty to set up production and welfare cooperatives, where the staff is made up of a minimum of 80 percent from the ranks of the sacrificers. For the remaining 20 percent the staff should be chosen as much as possible from the ranks of experts, knowledgeable and experienced people.

Footnote: All executive organizations have a duty to cooperate with the exxpansion centers to prepare plans, obtain approvals, implement plans, and obtain raw materials and other needs.

During yesterday's open session of the Majles there was discussion on the bill to amend the budget for 1989. On 6 March 1990 it was decided that there should be urgent discussions on this subject. The bill was discussed and all its details were passed by the deputies. Discussions on the details of this bill were postponed until the next open session. Also in this session the credentials of Messrs. Movahedi-Kermani and Mohtashemi and Mrs. Behruzi were mentioned. Because of Mr. Khalkhali's objections toward Mr. Movahedi-Kermani's credentials and the objections of Messrs Movahedi-Savoji, Shamyar and Borumand to Mr. Mohtashemi's credentials and Mrs. Raja'i's objections to Mrs. Behruzi's credentials, all three credentials were passed to the research commission.

At the end of yesterday's Majles session two plans were put forth:

1. A plan to move the offices of companies to the centers of provinces or the nearest towns.

2. A plan to hire 1,000 employees for the National Land and Document Registration Office.

The Majles will have an open session on 10 March 1990.

Nepal & Bhutan

Shretha Defends 'Democratic' Partyless System

BK0404012890 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 26 Mar 90 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Khalanga Bazar (Salyan) March 25 (RSS): Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shretha has said that the Panchayat System is not a political system based on one party totalitarianism, nor on the multi-party prejudices. It is a democratic system that accommodates all the groups and all the people. Declaring open the 36th district assembly of Salyan district at Khalanga Bazar Saturday [24 March], Prime Minister Shrestha said that the politics of a few urban people who live in the capital with all the facilities and comforts or have fled to a foreign country and not seen the rural areas and the people who live there could not be called the people's politics.

Mr. Shrestha said that the movement which gives support to hooliganism, arson and brick batting cannot be considered a people's movement by any stretch of imagination.

Terming the negative politics being played because the vested interests of some have not been fulfiled as very snobbish, Mr. Shrestha said that the state protects all the interests of Nepal and not of any particular group.

Condemning those carrying out politics by neglecting the verdict of the people and mobilising youths who do not understand the complexities of the foreign communications media and the problems of the country, Mr. Shrestha said that the efforts to make one's presence felt through anarchy are by no means democratic.

It is very strange that those who are the admirers of the one-party totalitarianism in some parts of the world are criticizing the democratic Panchayat System which

draws its legitimacy and strength from the popular will and the participation of all the people, he said.

It is not unusual for a country to have various classes of people with different principles and that they play various tricks to serve their vested interests. But their real intentions will not remain hidden from the people for long, he said.

Those who have never presented themselves before the people indulge in tall talks about themselves and it is the corrupt ones who see corruption everywhere in the Panchayat System, he said, adding that the so-called people's movement is not a movement at all nor are those creating chaos in the name of the so-called movement democrats. Their power does not come from the people but from the foreign communications media through which they are trying to frighten us.

Even if they succeed in misleading the innocent people and serving their political interest for a moment, in the long run the people will know about their conspiracy, he said.

The tendency of these elements to send their children for education abroad and to jeopardise the life of others through deceptive theories will never be tolerated by the people, he said.

The willingness to adjust with the changing times and to speak clearly from the conscience is democratic, he said, adding that to tell a lie in order to conceal the old image is totally undemocratic.

Stating that the Panchayat is committed to the development of democracy in the country under the guidance of His Majesty the King, Mr. Shrestha said that the greatest speciality of the Panchayat System is its ability to mobilise people's participation in all the programmes.

Stating that 42 percent of the people still live below the poverty line, he emphasised the need for improving the living standards and making the people capable of taking correct decisions.

The Prime Minister said that the people raising voice for democracy will be advised to support the programmes of the System aimed at eradicating illiteracy and poverty.

The Prime Minister said that the Panchayat System which has crossed many hurdles would not be affected by minor incidents.

Lauding the understanding shown by the Panchas [assembly members] to the problems before the country, Mr. Shrestha said that the panchas have enhanced the prestige of the country as they fight for the national identity, facing untoward incidents with courage.

Stating that the current events are the natural outcome of the national development process, the Prime Minister said that unity is necessary to deal with any kind of problem.

Mr. Shrestha said that the struggle waged in defence of our principles would be a great contribution to the country.

Referring to the support extended by thousands of pancha workers to the Panchayat System through the pancha rallies held throughout the country, Mr Shrestha said that some people may consider minor disturbances as a movement and huge pancha rallies as meaningless, but in actuality the people's verdict will always be the main basis of any democratic system.

Stating that nobody had the right to misuse the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal, the Prime Minister said the existing laws would not spare anyone trying to create chaos, arson or destruction in the name of the so-called movement.

It may be democratic for some people to disrupt studies, transport and the development works of the country, Mr Shrestha said, adding that our Constitution and System, which is committed to the national interest, will not tolerate such divisive activities.

Stating that His Majesty's Government had taken steps to make the decentralisation policy more practical and effective in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister said that all the district level units linked with development works will operate as branch offices of the district panchayat and all the development works carried out by the users committee will be checked by the auditor general under the new arrangement.

Mr. Shrestha said that the panchas should develop the capabilities of making use of the power being given to the village and district panchayats.

Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee (PPEC) member Resham Bahadur Rai said that the Nepalese people had already demonstrated their strength against groups engaged in creating chaos in the country to fulfil their narrow interests.

Rapti zonal commissioner Jagadish Khadka lauded the awareness shown by the panchas and the people to discourage elements trying to rear their heads by misleading the people and said that the cooperation of the panchas was being received for maintenance of law and order in their villages. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Continue in Kirtipur, Patan

BK0304124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, Kirtipur town today witnessed a huge demonstration in protest against yesterday's police firing, which claimed six lives. People came out in large numbers shouting slogans in support of a multiparty system. They also demanded the release of all those arrested in connection with the movement. Reports of

demonstrations have come in from Patan, which continues to be tense. Supporters of the multiparty system took out a procession in the main shopping area of the capital city also.

Government Spokesman Says 323 Detainees Released

BK0304142790 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 26 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, March 25 (RSS): Chief spokesman of HMG [His Majesty's Government] R.S. Bista today said 125 of the 150 persons arrested at Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, on March 20 have been released from custody today.

According to him, HMG has a policy of releasing those taken in custody after necessary investigation.

In Pokhara, 198 of the 216 persons involved in the objectionable activities at the campus of the Forestry Institute have been released, according to the Kaski district administration.

Eighteen have been kept in custody for interrogation purposes. Ten of them are likely to be released by tomorrow.

Police Fire on Crowd; 11 Killed, 41 Injured

OW0304181490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 3 KYODO—Eleven persons were killed and 41 others injured when police fired at a crowd of demonstrators in Kathmandu from Monday night [2 April] to Tuesday morning [3 April], parliamentary sources here said. According to reports from Kathmandu, the confrontation took place in the neighboring districts of Kathmandu, including Kirtipur and Lalitpur, where local citizens were organizing demonstrations demanding multiparty democracy. It was the largest confrontation in the country since the action committee of the outlawed Nepali Congress and the joint leftist front launched their action in February to seek political reforms.

In the central part of Kathmandu, most markets and stores remained closed Tuesday and many bricks used by demonstrators were reportedly scattered on streets.

Other reports said citizens in Lalitpur set up barricades of logs on main streets which lead to Kathmandu. Men, women, and children carrying bamboo sticks, hoes, and various types of household metal weapons also walked through the streets of the city.

King Birendra of Nepal on Sunday reconfirmed a hardline policy by the government as he reshuffled the Council of Ministers under Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha.

Radio Nepal Confirms 5 Killed During Protests

BK0404055290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 4 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government confirmed Wednesday [4 April] that five civilians were killed and 24 injured in police gunfire during protests in the Kathmandu area over the past two days. It said 128 people have been arrested. Two banned political parties have said that 12 people were killed, 11 by police bullets and one from police manhandling, and that 300 have been arrested since Monday.

Late Tuesday [3 April], state-run Radio Nepal broke a 48-hour silence on the firing incidents and demonstrations against the partyless Panchayat political system. It said early Wednesday that five people died from bullet injuries at hospitals and that nine others were still being treated in hospitals. Fifteen people had been released after treatment, it said. The official announcement also mentioned about the injury of 40 policemen, including some hurt in stonings by angry mobs.

Radio Nepal reported police use of gunfire to disperse demonstrators at Kirtipur hamlet west of here and Kopundol, but did not mention firing in Tyauda, Baneswor and other inner parts of Kathmandu, opposition politicians said.

The banned parties—the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front—organized prayers Wednesday for people killed in police actions and for the early recovery of those injured.

In a special function at the famous Golden Temple of Pashupati Nath, over 7,000 elders, students and activists from outlawed parties also prayed for the elimination of the Panchayat system and raised dissident banners. Similar functions were held in other temples in Kathmandu and its satellite townships of Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

Officials have confirmed 21 deaths nationwide in the seven weeks since a political movement was launched for the restoration of multiparty democracy and full human rights. But the banned parties have claimed that 37 people have been killed and 34 bodies recovered since Feburary 18.

Radio Nepal also reported that "extremist communists" damaged government offices and police stations at Bhainsepati and Lubhu, suburbs of Lalitpur. It also said that several buildings were damaged in Bhaktapur.

Pilots Strike Supporting Pro-Democracy Movement

BK0404075090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 4 (AFP)—Pilots for the state-run Royal Nepal Airlines defied a government order and went on strike Wednesday [4 April] to express sympathy for the pro-democracy movement, hampering all

domestic and international flights. The pilots did not spell out any demands and were believed to be striking in sympathy with an ongoing political movement for the re-establishment of multiparty democracy and full civil rights in Nepal. The strike had been scheduled for three hours but the majority of pilots stopped working for the whole day, sources said.

Royal Nepal Airlines engineers went on strike last Monday [2 April] for about three hours, causing delays in departures of the international and domestic flights.

Also on Wednesday, the United National Peoples' Movement (UNPM) called for a general strike on Friday in educational institutions, markets, transport companies and factories against the partyless Panchayat system. The group comprises five factions of banned pro-Marxist Nepal Communist Party. The UNPM is staging a separate democracy movement from the Nepali Congress, which it sees as pro-Indian, and the United Leftist Front, which it believes is pro-Soviet, political observers said.

The Nepalese Government last week issued an order banning strikes by those engaged in essential services including transport, communications, electricity, drinking water supply, medical services and food supply. Physicians first defied the order last Monday by striking in government and private hospitals and nursing houses in the Kathmandu valley. They have said they will again stage a strike on Friday to demand the release of arrested colleagues, prisoners of conscience and students.

In related news, sources with banned opposition parties said seven pradhan panchas, the top leaders of locally elected Panchayat bodies, have resigned in eight villages to protest alleged government repression of peaceful demonstrations. The resignations could not be officially confirmed.

In Kirtipur hamlet outside Kathmandu Monday, at least six persons died and 12 were injured when police fired to dispersed a crowd of over 8,000 staging a protest for multiparty democracy, Kirtipur village Chief Machha Bhai Maharjan said.

Pakistan

Mujahidin Government Names Nawaz New Army Chief

BK0404101090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, April 3—A former Afghan army General, Mohammad Nawaz, has been appointed Chief of Army Staff of the Afghan Interim Government, [AIG] replacing General Mohammad Yahya Nauroz who has been named adviser to AIG President Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi.

Gen. Nawaz belongs to Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami whose leader Maulvi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi is the Defence Minister in the AIG. All Ministers in the AIG are authorised to name their deputy Ministers and Advisers. The post of Chief of Army Staff in AIG is, however, only ceremonial since the component parties have never cared to take orders from him and have instead fought in Afghanistan under party banners.

Gen. Nawaz hails from Barmali subdistrict of Paktia Province. He served as Commander of Afghan Army's 7th, 8th and 18th divisions. He completed his higher army education in the Soviet Union. He migrated to Pakistan in 1979 and joined the Mujahidin.

Bhutto, Yaqub Khan Address Envoys Conference

BK0304131090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called for ensuring every possible advantage be taken of the changes in East-West relations for the security and integrity of Pakistan and for the nation-building program.

She was addressing the concluding session of the nine-day conference of Pakistani envoys this afternoon in Islamabad. The prime minister stressed the need for strengthening Pakistan's close relations with China, the United States, the Muslim world, Japan, and Europe and for striving to promote relations with the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and the Third World.

She particularly called for devising an effective strategy to project the Kashmir and Afghanistan issues to the international media, opinion-making circles, and governments in a manner that establishes the righteousness and principled nature of our stands. She told the envoys these two issues would require particular attention in the capitals where the envoys are assigned. She promised her personal attention to the envoys' recommendations on these issues.

The prime minister underlined the urgent need for promoting foreign investment in the country. She said that despite an unfavorable international economic situation, there is enough surplus liquidity in many countries that they want to invest abroad. If the situation becomes conducive in the country, and if our envoys work wholeheartedly, then there is no doubt Pakistan will be able to secure a portion of the surplus liquidity of foreign countries, she said.

Referring to the need for offering an attractive package to investors in Pakistan, the prime minister said her government is fully aware of the need to improve the law and order situation, as well as the skills and productivity of Pakistani labor. She said mutual understanding and cooperation among all parties and concerned groups is needed to improve the law and order situation, and it also is necessary in the broader national interest. Concerning consensus among envoys on the pivotal role of the private sector in economic development, she said their recommendations were in line with the policy of

the government. She said our envoys also should help in increasing the country's exports.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan earlier said both the economic and political aspects of the conference were fruitful. Views were exchanged in the meetings on issues very important to our foreign policy, particularly at a time when we are passing through a delicate stage. He said apart from Kashmir and Afghanistan, a realistic review was made of our relations with India, the Soviet Union, and the big powers. He said the action plan and strategy recommended at the meeting to achieve economic objectives will be presented to the prime minister for approval.

4 Killed, 22 Injured in Lahore Bomb Explosion

BK0304152890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] A bomb exploded this afternoon outside Delhi Gate at a fruit market in Lahore. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, four people were killed on the spot, while 22 others were injured, four of them seriously.

Customs Officials Seize Heroin, Hashish 3 Apr

BK0404004890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2241 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 3 (AFP)—Pakistani customs Tuesday [3 April] seized 380 kilogrammes (836 pounds) of heroin from an oil tanker near here and 6,000 kilogrammes (13,200 pounds) of hashish in Karachi, official sources said. The heroin haul was the biggest since authorities seized about 400 kilos (880 pounds) of heroin in 1988, they said.

The sources said the drug was recovered from an oil tanker which was coming from the country's semi-autonomous tribal territory bordering Afghanistan. Its driver and his helper have been arrested, they said. Officials said the fine quality heroin powder, worth millions of dollars on the underground market, was destined for Karachi for shipment to some European country.

They said customs authorities were tipped off by an informant that a huge quantity of heroin would be smuggled out in a tanker. They blockaded the entry points and stopped an oil tanker. The tanker was empty but the drug was "very cleverly placed" in false cavities, they said. A thorough search led to the recovery of the deadly drug, they said.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) meanwhile said police Tuesday [3 April] foiled an attempt to smuggle 6,000 kilogrammes of hashish on the Mekran coast near the southern port city of Karachi. The hashish packed in flour bags was also recovered from a truck whose two occupants have been arrested, they said.

The seizures coincided with the current visit of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters Melvyn Levitsky. Mr. Levitsky held talks with Pakistani authorities on opium eradication measures in Pakistan and heroin trafficking. The U.S. official, who met with the Afghan resistance interim government's President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi here Tuesday, strongly warned the resistance against drug smuggling. The warning came amid speculation that some mujahidin commanders were involved in the drug trade.

Resistance sources said Mr. Mojaddedi strongly denied the allegations, saying that Islam prohibited use and production of narcotics. However, he assured the United States that "if any commander was found indulging in the drug business he would be punished under the strict Islamic laws," the rebel-run news agency MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] reported.